

FBIS

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U S S R I N T E R N A T I O N A L A F F A I R S
DISARMAMENT/SALT/MBFR

AA 1

DOUBTS ABOUT ADHERING TO 1972 GERM WARFARE ACCORD REJECTED

WA201848 London REUTER in English 1845 GMT 20 Mar 80 WA

[By Robert Evans]

[Excerpt] Moscow, March 20, REUTER--The Soviet Union said today it rejected what it called attempts to cast doubt on Moscow's adherence to a 1972 accord banning germ warfare weapons.

The Foreign Ministry, in a statement telephoned to Western correspondents in Moscow, was reacting to suggestions by Washington officials that hundreds of people died in the Urals city of Sverdlovsk after accidental contact with bacteriological weapons.

The spokesman confirmed that the U.S. Embassy in Moscow had contacted the ministry to inquire about the Soviet Union's fulfillment of the convention.

"The Foreign Ministry of the U.S.S.R. responded saying we resolutely reject any attempts to cast doubt on the good faith of the Soviet Union in the fulfillment of the provisions of this convention," the spokesman said.

It was believed the Soviet response was delivered to U.S. Ambassador Thomas Watson at a meeting yesterday.

The spokesman said the Soviet Union "strictly observes this convention, and all other agreements in which the Soviet side takes part." He condemned what he called "attempts by the U.S. Government to cast a shadow on the effectiveness of the treaty."

The five-year accord, signed in 1972, went into force in 1975, and delegates at the Geneva Disarmament Conference began meeting earlier this month to review its effectiveness.

The spokesman said Moscow formally announced in 1975 it had no "bacteriological agents and poisons, arms, equipment or delivery means such as mentioned in the convention."

Attempts to doubt the Soviet Union's good faith could "shatter current international accords and complicate the efforts of states to curb the arms race," he added.

BIRYUKOV: U.S. ATTEMPTING TO 'JUSTIFY' NEW CHEMICAL WEAPONS

LD172137 Moscow TASS in English 2130 GMT 17 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 17, TASS--TASS commentator Vadim Biryukov writes:

The NATO Supreme Commander in Europe, General Bernard Rogers, said on Sunday in his BBC interview that the United States should start the production of chemical weapons so as to make the Kremlin reject its use.

It is not for the first time in the past several days that the Western press and politicians start talking of chemical weapons, insinuating that the Soviet Union is using poisons in Afghanistan, while the West is hopelessly lagging behind.

It should be pointed out that Bernard Rogers is making a "mistake" when he calls on Washington to start the production of chemical weapons.

Bernard Rogers, the former U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff commander, knows, as nobody else, that the American military have been producing chemical weapons now for a long time, which is demonstrated, if only as one fact, by the said experience of Vietnam where, according to the international scientific conference held in France in 1970, 1,295 thousand fell victim to the deadly defoliant "Agent Orange."

Recently the research assistant to the U.S. defense secretary, William Perry, according to the New York TIMES, signed an order for the U.S. Army and Navy to complete their development of the binary gas, deadly within a second. The 1981 Pentagon budget, writes the NEWSWEEK, allocates nearly 20 million dollars for the purpose. 1,300 million dollars will be spent on the development of a new generation of nerve gases in the coming five years.

The Soviet Union and the majority of other countries have repeatedly called for a ban on chemical weapons, giving due consideration to the problem of monitoring the agreement, which can be solved on the basis of national monitoring systems, matched by carefully-considered international procedures. Yet, the American side is using all means to disrupt the solution of the problem, making cynical statements through a Pentagon official, who preferred to remain unnamed, that no ban on chemical weapons will work, as they are highly effective, easily produced and utilized, and their utilization is covered up without any difficulty.

The call by Bernard Rogers is a manoeuvre to conceal the atrocious military preparations in the chemical laboratories of the Pentagon. The U.S. administration keeps resorting to fabrications and rumours so as to "justify," if possible the production of new chemical weapons by the United States itself.

U.S. PLANS TO INCREASE CHEMICAL, GERM WARFARE CAPABILITY

LD201428 Moscow TASS in English 1409 GMT 20 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Washington, March 20 TASS--TASS correspondent Vitaliy Gan writes:

In a situation marked by chauvinist and militaristic hysteria, which is whipped up in the USA by the Carter administration, the Pentagon military is passing over from secret to open preparations for chemical and germ warfare.

According to the Washington STAR, Defence Secretary Harold Brown and other leaders of the Pentagon consider it necessary to increase outlays for a programme to prepare for chemical warfare. Under the federal draft budget for the 1981 fiscal year, more than 20 million dollars are allocated for the production of nerve gas alone. In all, the NEWSWEEK says, 1.3 billion dollars are to be spent within the next five years on the development of a new generation of chemical weapons for the U.S. land forces.

These funds are to be used specifically to speed up the development of so-called binary systems of chemical ammunition. The New York TIMES reported, referring to military sources, that research and development work on them is nearly completed and they may be practically put into serial production already now. Moreover the United States is developing a "big-eye" bomb filled with stable toxic agents.

At top secret military laboratories, work is also under way to cultivate bacteria which could cause, such mass epidemics as anthrax, typhoid, plague, small-pox, etc.

Apart from developing new means of chemical and germ warfare, the Pentagon is actively replenishing the stocks of the existing varieties of this anti-humanitarian weapon. The Pentagon asked 4.2 million dollars for these purposes for the 1981 fiscal year.

Under pressure from the military the U.S. administration has revised the projects, publicized earlier, for destroying the stocks of the deadly nerve gas called weteye. It has already been announced that the arsenal of this gas near Denver (Colorado state), will be preserved.

In carrying out its sinister designs the Pentagon draws on the "wealth of experience" gained by it in the course of the military ventures of the past years, specifically during the "dirty war" in Vietnam. As is known the American military then widely used various chemical weapons. Thus, it employed toxic agents for removing its political opponents. In pursuance of their "scorched earth" tactics the American aggressors dropped a total of 100,000 tons of various toxic agents on Vietnamese soil. According to a study just published here the defoliants used by American troops in Vietnam induced genetic disturbances and cancer in people.

As was established with the help of documents by the Church of Scientology, a religious public organization, the Pentagon together with the CIA also tried out various toxic agents on Americans themselves.

The Pentagon strategists would like to enlist the cooperation of their West European allies in carrying out their designs dangerous to the whole of mankind. American General B. Rogers, supreme commander of the joint NATO forces in Europe, urged the NATO countries recently to build up means of chemical warfare in the European Continent.

Serov Rejoinder

LD201423 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 18 Mar 80 p 3 LD

[TASS observer V. Serov "Rejoinder": "Redhanded"]

[Text] Not a day goes by without the American mass media, egged on by the Washington administration and the CIA, launching another forgery designed to defame the Soviet Union and its peace-loving policy and slander the aims and nature of the assistance the Soviet land is giving to the fraternal Afghan people in repelling external aggression. NEWSWEEK, which has the reputation of a "respectable" magazine, has also joined in this unscrupulous campaign.

Dirty aims, as is well known, are always achieved by dirty means: Picking up the malicious libel that the Soviet troops in Afghanistan at the request of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan's Government are using toxins there, and desiring at all costs to impart a "documentary nature" to this lie, NEWSWEEK's editors extracted from the archives and published a TASS photograph showing Soviet soldiers wearing gas masks, with combat equipment nearby. This photograph was accompanied by a downright frightening caption: "Soviet Troops in Protective Masks: an Immense Arsenal of Killer Chemicals."

But the slanderers forgot one thing: The TASS photograph published in NEWSWEEK is indeed a document, and it is not all that difficult to find out what it actually shows. This is what staffers of our pictorial review did. And what was the result?

It turns out that the photo in question was taken back in ...1969. It shows Soviet servicemen decontaminating combat equipment during antichemical warfare defense exercises. In other words, the photo has and can have emphatically nothing to do with either events in Afghanistan or an "immense Soviet arsenal" of toxims.

However, the question arises: Was it merely a desire to slander the Soviet Union that prompted NEWSWEEK to resort to this trick? As is clear from the slanderous item published by the magazine, it also had other aims. First, to justify the course adopted by the Pentagon of further preparation for chemical warfare and of creating a new generation of chemical weapons--something on which, as NEWSWEEK itself reports, it is planned to spend \$1.3 billion in the next 5 years. And second, to play up to the Pentagon "gold braid" and the U.S. military-industrial complex, which are continuing their attempts to block the Soviet-American talks on banning chemical weapons currently proceeding in Geneva.

It hasn't worked, gentlemen! The thieving NEWSWEEK editors made a mess of launching their deliberate forgery.

SCIENTIFIC JOURNAL ON DANGERS POSED BY NORAD'S COMPUTERS

LD131144 Moscow TASS in English 1115 GMT 13 Mar 80 LD

[Text] New York, March 13, TASS--A highly dangerous incident like the false alarm signal, which occurred at the headquarters of NORAD, the North American Air Defense Command in November last, may be repeated in the United States at any moment. This is borne out by an article on the use of computers by the American Armed Forces, carried by the SCIENCE magazine.

As reported earlier, NORAD in November was testing a simulated nuclear blow on North America. The electronic signal, however, was "mistakenly" transmitted to a number of other commands and federal departments which did not suspect anything about these reckless "games". Interceptor aircraft took off to search for the "intruding bombers" and about 1,000 missile installations on United States territory were alerted.

According to the SCIENCE magazine, this computer-caused crisis was not the only one in the history of the war department.

The magazine reports that the United States have criss-crossed the globe with a system of 27 command posts. They are equipped with computers which connect the complex system of reconnaissance satellites, radio locating facilities and the early warning systems. In case of an "emergency", the computers notify the President and the Joint Chiefs of Staff of an "attack" on the United States.

The electronic computers used in the system, however, are not dependable enough, the SCIENCE magazine says, and the staffs servicing them have not been adequately trained. The computers, for instance, more than once were put out of action at the most crucial moments and did not heed signals received.

It is obvious that reliance on such techniques and on "war games", staged with their assistance, are becoming extremely dangerous in the situation of the war psychosis unleashed by the United States.

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USSR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
DISARMAMENT/SALT/MBFR

U.S. STAND ON SALT NOT DICTATED BY 'CONCERN FOR PEACE'

ID211135 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 18 Mar 80 Morning Edition p 4 LD

[Political observer V. Matveyev commentary on TASS report: "Sensible Judgment"--first two paragraphs are TASS report]

[Text] New York, 17 March--The CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR recently carried an editorial which stated in particular: The United States must return without fail to SALT....in an atmosphere of Soviet-American tension a coordinated policy in the nuclear arms sphere acquires still greater significance. It should not have escaped public attention, the newspaper further writes, that even members of the American Joint Chiefs of Staff, who have by no means showered SALT with generous praises, are beginning to express serious anxiety in connection with the prospect of unchecked rivalry with the Soviet Union in the arms sphere....

Even while resorting to the standard propaganda inventions the paper is nevertheless forced to admit that the problem of strategic offensive arms limitation "should not be made dependent on the vicissitudes of domestic policy." The newspaper urges seeking ratification of this treaty.

The above-mentioned American newspaper article is one of many opinions to be heard at present in the United States in favor of the implementation of the treaty of strategic offensive arms limitation signed between the USSR and the United States in Vienna. Almost 9 months have already elapsed since the signatures of the two states' leaders were put to this treaty, but this document--which is most important for the fate of peace--has not yet been ratified because of zigzags by the U.S. administration to ask the Senate to postpone examination of this treaty. As is evident, in this question too official Washington has given priority to considerations dictated by anything you like except concern for the interests of peace.

Very recently high-ranking figures in the United States started talking of the desirability of ratifying the SALT II treaty. Obviously they cannot fail to take into account the prevailing mood in the country.

The immediate future will show how things will go for the ratification of the SALT II treaty in the United States. Naturally at the present stage a great deal depends on the position of the U.S. Congress. If anybody does, its members should be informed about the serious internal problems of today's America. These U.S. problems are making themselves heard increasingly loudly and persistently. This is yet another weighty argument in favor of the speediest ratification of the SALT II treaty.

ATOMIC ENERGY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN INTERVIEWED

ID210034 Moscow TASS in English 0014 GMT 21 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 20, TASS--Within the next decade the aggregate generating capacity of the atomic power plants of the CMEA member-states will be more than 30 million kilowatt, a TASS correspondent was told by Andranik Petrosyants, chairman of the USSR State Committee for the Utilisation of Atomic Energy. This will make it possible to improve the fuel and energy balance of the socialist community, to cut the consumption of oil, gas and other organic fuels.

The comprehensive program, Petrosyants said, provides for the creation by joint efforts of the CMEA member-countries of prerequisites for an accelerated development and effective introduction of the atomic power engineering on an industrial scale in the economy.

New blocs with power reactors are being built in Bulgaria, the GDR and Czechoslovakia. The first atomic power station is under construction in Hungary. Preparatory work is under way in Cuba for building such a station.

Over the past years, the chairman of the committee said, the atomic energetics of the socialist states has demonstrated its economic effectiveness, reliability and safety.

All this is achieved, said the chairman of the state committee, due to the mutual aid and assistance given by the fraternal countries to each other.

New materials and equipment of special significance for the development of nuclear energetics as a whole are created by joint efforts. In Hungary for example, a device has been designed for regulating reactor power. It is under trials at the atomic power station Kozlodui in Bulgaria and the Novo-Voronezh atomic power station in the USSR.

Systems for control of operations of reactors have been tested in the GDR jointly with the Soviet Union and an experimental prototype of an instrument has been made to determine moisture content in steam, which is important for ensuring a long service life of equipment. The problem of inter-reactor control and neutron steam of great power has been resolved by the efforts of Polish and Soviet specialists at Kozlodui (Bulgaria), Bruno Leuscher (GDR), Novo-Voronezh and Kola atomic power plants (USSR).

ZAGLADIN AT MOSCOW SOCIAL SCIENCES CONFERENCE

LD121427 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 8 Mar 80 p 4 LD

[Unattributed report: "Devoted to Jubilee"]

[Text] A scientific-theoretical conference devoted to the 110th anniversary of V. I. Lenin's birth was held on 4-7 March in the Institute of Social Sciences. Prof V.V. Zagladin, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee, delivered a report on the subject "Marxism-Leninism--the creative internationalist teaching of communists of the whole world."

H. Schmitt, chairman of the West Berlin Socialist Unity Party; Nguyen Huu Khieu, member of the Vietnam Communist Party Central Committee and Socialist Republic of Vietnam ambassador to the USSR; (V. Fuglasang), member of the Danish Communist Party Central Committee Executive Committee; J. Berecz, chief of the MSZMP [Hungarian Socialist Workers Party] Central Committee Department of International Relations; (Kh. Petrak), deputy director of the SED central committee Academy of Social Sciences Institute of Research into Imperialism; and Yu. Pankov, rector of the Institute of Social Sciences, and other comrades spoke at the conference's sessions.

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USSR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
COMMUNIST RELATIONS

CEMA EXPERTS IN ANGOLA TO AID DEVELOPMENT OF STOCKRAISING

LD121441 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 5 Mar 80 p 4 LD

[V. Volkov dispatch: "Selfless Assistance"]

[Text] Luanda, 4 March--Links between Angola and the members of CEMA are broadening.

In accordance with an agreement on Angola-CEMA cooperation, a large group of CEMA specialists has arrived in Angola to assist the Angolan Agriculture Ministry in its cattle vaccination program in 13 of the country's provinces. Angola has also received transportation and medical equipment.

Angolan Agriculture Minister M. Pacavira expressed the Angolan government's deep gratitude for the socialist community's selfless assistance in solving the problem of the development of the young republic's stockraising sector.

MARSHAL KULIKOV PAYS WORKING VISIT TO GDR

For GDR media coverage of the visit to the GDR by Viktor Kulikov, commander in chief of the Joint Armed Forces of the Warsaw Pact and marshal of the Soviet Union, see the German Democratic Republic section of the 19 March Eastern Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

BRIEFS

ENVIRONMENTAL SYMPOSIUM--Donetsk, as the center of a large industrial region producing each seventh ton of steel in the country, has now become a unique laboratory of advanced experience for the protection of nature. An international symposium of CEMA member countries and the SFRY on problems concerning the protection of the environment from harmful discharges of ferrous metallurgical enterprises ended in Donetsk on 14 March. The symposium adopted a protocol outlining the main guidelines for activities for the protection of the environment in the coming decades. [Kiev Domestic Service in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 14 Mar 80 AU]

REPORTAGE ON U.S. CASE AGAINST IRAN BEFORE WORLD COURT

Opening of Hearings

LD191806 Moscow TASS in English 1725 GMT 19 Mar 80 LD

[Text] The Hague, March 19, TASS--Opening hearings on the action brought by the United States against Iran in connection with the capture in Tehran of the U.S. Embassy and hostages from among American citizens are under way at the International Court here. Speaking at today's session, legal advisor of the U.S. State Department Robert Owens stressed that the holding of the embassy and hostages contradicts international law. At the same time he asserted that espionage charges against the officials of the American Embassy in Tehran are ungrounded. According to Owens, the U.S. Embassy was engaged in normal diplomatic activities. As is known, a great number of documents has been made public in Iran irrefutably proving that the United States flagrantly interfered in Iran's domestic affairs during 25 years, and the Iranian students who are holding the embassy made public classified materials from the embassy archives confirming that the American hostages "are not ordinary diplomats but spies". A film was shown over Iranian television about the subversive activities of the CIA in that country. Shown were stationary and portable radio stations, listening-in devices, means of coding, operational maps of various districts of Iran, weapons and ammunition, equipment for maintaining communications links with the American fleets and air bases, and other evidence of the criminal activities of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran, which have been found in the embassy.

Iranian, U.S., Soviet Statements

LD201755 Moscow TASS in English 1743 GMT 20 Mar 80 LD

[Text] The Hague, March 20, TASS--The International Court is sitting here to hear the "case" started by the United States against Iran over the seizure in Tehran of the U.S. Embassy and American diplomatic hostages. Iran is boycotting the hearings.

Sadeq Qotbzadeh, the Iranian foreign minister, said in his letter to the court that the Iranian Government considers the issue of hostages as only one of the many aspects of the complicated problem created as a result of the 25 years of uncerecermonious interference by the United States in Iran, the plundering of the national wealth of the country and the crimes committed against the Iranian people by Washington together with the repressive regime of the shah in violation of all norms of the international law.

Addressing the court, the U.S. representative was trying to justify the anti-popular imperialistic policy of the United States against Iran which, as is commonly known, was condemned by the broad sections of the Iranian population. The U.S. representative was also trying to present the American actions against Iran which followed the development of the American-Iranian conflict as having a "restrained" nature and "corresponding" to the U.N. Charter.

In his statement, the Soviet representative pointed to the discrepancy between the American statements and such commonly known facts as the freezing of Iranian assets in the American banks and their foreign branches, estimated at 12,000 million dollars, as well as the threat of an economic blockade and military action against Iran, which do contradict the U.N. Charter. It is enough to recall that the Pentagon has concentrated off the shores of Iran an unprecedentedly big naval armada which poses a direct threat to Iran and peace in the region. These actions by Washington also contradict the recent ruling by the International Court which made it binding on the U.S. Government to refrain from any anti-Iranian actions which could deteriorate tension in the relations between the two countries.

TRUD: ILO FAILS TO REPRESENT INTERESTS OF WORKERS

LD201535 [Editorial Report LD] Moscow TRUD in Russian 14 March 1980 carries on page 3 a 2,500-word article entitled "What Working People Expect of the International Labor Organization" by O. Fedorov. The article says that the International Labor Organization and its executive organ, the International Labor Office, fail to represent the interests of the working people of the world. This is because "constructive proposals" from the Soviet Union, the other socialist community members and "representatives of trade unions of various orientations" are blocked by representatives of Western employers and governments, which allegedly collaborate with U.S. representatives in order to manipulate and pressure the representatives of a number of Western and developing countries. This is also a result of the fact that "the organization's leading organs are doing their utmost to deflect it from discussing urgent socioeconomic problems of most concern to working people."

BEGLOV CONDEMNS ALTERNATIVE OLYMPIC GAMES PLAN

LD210221 Moscow in English to North America 2300 GMT 20 Mar 80 LD

[Commentary by APN observer Spartak Beglov]

[Text] In sports there are always those who win and those who lose. The 22d Olympics due to open in Moscow on 19 July will be no exception. Some athletes will of course be more and others less lucky but all of them will share a common joy--the joy of participating in the Olympic games. After all, this is the main goal that the international Olympic movement pursues. Yet today some athletes are facing the threat of becoming losers in all respects. They'll be made to swallow the bitter pill of a total defeat, not by their rivals in sports competitions but by their own politicians who have launched an anti-Olympic campaign in the United States and some other countries.

The meaning and scale of personal dramas of athletes will, naturally, be measured by the lost opportunities to take part in the greatest sports event for which they have been preparing throughout the whole of their lives. But the bitterness of their defeat will grow even more when they come to realize that they have fallen victim to deceit. This deceit is nothing but a chain of lies made up of numerous links. One of them is an attempt to push forward the idea of an alternative competition, though it's clear from the start that this idea runs counter to the principles of the Olympic movement. It serves to undermine this movement and split the international sports community. There is an undisguised hypocrisy in the attempt to draw a connection between the call to boycott and the issue of human rights. It's plainly evident, however, that the present campaign of political pressure is nothing but an act of infringement on the human rights of athletes for the sake of satisfying the selfish ambitions of certain politicians. But is it not too big a sacrifice? The worldwide protest movement against the alternative games provides the answer. This is the movement in defense of the rights of athletes threatened with political blackmail. This is the movement for guarding the best athletes of the world from defeat, the heaviest possible, in the battle with their own politicians.

The Olympic games do not belong to the American President, to the North Atlantic alliance, or to the American administration or London. They belong to the international community of sportsmen and the International Olympic Committee. The summer Olympic games will be held at the place and at the time defined by the world organization of the sports movement. To prevent American or other sportsmen from going to Moscow means to deal one more blow to the edifice of peace and the relaxation of tension.

FALIN CITES U.S. 'RESPONSIBILITIES; NEGOTIATIONS ONLY PATH'

LD201231 Milan L'UNITA in Italian 18 Mar 80 p 15 LD

[Carlo Benedetti undated interview in Moscow with Valentin Falin, first deputy chief of the CPSU's International Information Department: "How Can We Negotiate? Soviets Say..."]

[Text] Moscow--"The only path is negotiation. We are ready. Once again we say to the Americans: Do you want medium-range missiles? Very well. Let us discuss it." And: "If there are to be talks on Afghanistan they must involve the governments of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan [DRA] and the neighboring countries and the topic must be observance of the border. But the talks must also be attended by the Americans, so that the issues of foreign interference in Afghanistan and its government can be dealt with." Valentin Falin, first deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee International Information Department and member of the CPSU Central Auditing Commission, immediately entered into the merits of the most burning issues, thus initiating a conversation containing many points of polemic, emphases, messages and signals.

Moscow does not conceal the fact that the situation is stalemated and that East-West relations are now at a dangerous impasse. They therefore need thrusts which will make it possible to surmount the obstacles, including initiatives at a European level.

Falin, a very prominent figure in the USSR's diplomatic and political life (he was ambassador to Bonn 1971 through 1978), has followed the course of East-West detente step by step. The present situation, Falin warned at once, is not a propitious one for nurturing "false hopes" about the future: These are difficult times. Brezhnev has said so during recent weeks and PRAVDA is repeating it; influential diplomats are pointing this out. But the chapter of detente is not closed: Indeed, now is the time when a new thrust must be imparted to it.

However, the Afghan situation looms over everything. Falin rejected and challenged several interpretations and theses. He stressed once again the stance adopted by the USSR. "An undeclared war was, and still is, being waged against Afghanistan. Yet people talk about "Soviet aggression." But we are well aware that the attackers are other forces: the counterrevolutionaries--80,000 at the end of last year--trained in Pakistan by various powers and launched en masse against the legitimate Kabul Government."

[Question] But is not the present situation in danger of erupting at any moment? Is this not proved by the latest demonstrations in the Afghan capital? Is there not a pressing need for actions aimed at resolving the situation?

[Answer] It is true: There is much talk of possible negotiations. And the idea of finding solutions to eliminate the tension is not prompting any objections. But there is something that I must clarify: If we set ourselves the aim of a political settlement, we must not allow ourselves to move toward illusory stances which would lead to a confusion between cause and effect in what is happening in Afghanistan. The fact is that the crux does not lie in the country's status which, for that matter, did not change either in April 1978 or in December 1979. Afghanistan has been and will remain, as the DRA leaders have said, a nonaligned country aspiring to good-neighborly relations with adjacent countries and states throughout the world. Afghanistan's proclamation as a neutral state would add little to the present situation; not to mention the fact that every decision must be taken by the government and approved by the Afghan people. International law has already abandoned some time ago the concept of neutrality imposed on a sovereign state from outside.

The crux of the matter is that there must be an end to outside interference aimed at disrupting the existing social order in Afghanistan. If this interference ceases, the DRA Government and Army will no longer need Soviet military aid to guarantee the security of its borders. I say this because I want to point out that the stabilization and order within the country--though disrupted by terrorists and saboteurs from abroad--can be guaranteed by the Afghans themselves.

[Benedetti] However, the need for a settlement and negotiations to resolve the situation, is also felt in Moscow.

"If talks are to be started," Falin said, "they must involve the countries bordering on Afghanistan and must be attended by the DRA, so as to decide on observance of the borders. But these talks must also involve the United States with a view to halting the use of various countries' territories to train gangs of saboteurs and launch them against Afghanistan."

Having said this, Falin did not conceal the difficulties being encountered in Kabul. "When the Afghan leaders talk about foreign interference," he said, "this does not mean that they deny the presence of internal counterrevolutionary forces. Suffice it to say that the Afghan people are trying to free themselves from 9 centuries-old feudal yoke, from the shackles of the middle ages!"

"Sea Will Be Rough Even After Presidential Elections"

Next we discussed the Soviet military presence. Falin confirmed the well-known Kremlin positions and explained that "for a long time" the USSR refrained from responding affirmatively to the "numerous requests" for military aid from the Kabul leaders. "Now," he said, "we are ready to withdraw the troops as soon as the conditions that led to last December's events have been eliminated. But in order to do this the Americans must stop interfering."

The U.S. responsibilities are great, the Soviet exponent continued: The United States "prefers to pretend that it has nothing to do with the organization of subversive activities in Afghanistan." "This is a well-known tactic," he added. "The United States denied its involvement in the aggression against Guatemala and denied attacking Cuba.... Let us also remember Chile...and perhaps the day will come when it will show its hand. Perhaps this will happen soon, perhaps after the presidential elections."

The linkage with the U.S. domestic situation, but also with Moscow-Washington relations, was immediate. Falin explained that there is "a shift" [svolta] taking place in U.S. foreign policy. In support of this thesis he cited, among other things, a document by Carter's adviser Caddell from which it emerges that every U.S. President has succeeded in imposing a certain unity in the country "by playing the warrior." "You see," Falin continued, Caddell makes no secret of the fact that Carter needs a wave of tension. Hence the show of force. Before Afghanistan he sought tensions in Iran and, had it not been for Afghanistan, the United States would almost certainly have tightened the knot to blockade Iran."

Reservations and uncertainties remain regarding the prospects for accords and contacts. Falin said that one must not "nurture false hopes" and that even after the U.S. presidential elections "the sea will still be rough" because "there is now a shift in U.S. policy." [paragraph continues]

The first symptoms, he said, were seen in Vienna when the concepts of peaceful coexistence disappeared from the documents signed by the United States and the USSR. And they disappeared, he stressed, through the fault of the Americans, who refused to confirm them ("it was not a matter of wording...").

We asked whether there remain any hopes of a Brezhnev-Carter summit.

Falin did not rule out understandings and contacts. But right now, he said, the situation is still difficult. "A meeting?" he said. "Very well, but what for? To initiate polemics and attacks? No. Polemics can be conducted even at long distance. This is because at present--I mean at present--Carter is displaying no constructive stances. It is this aspect which is governing our attitude... We have put forward many proposals. Unfortunately the replies have always been negative."

[Question] So what are the prospects? Must everything remain as it is, at a standstill?

[Answer] No, no. The proposals for negotiations on medium-range missiles are still valid. We must negotiate, but the rider which we add to what has already been said is that we are ready as long as the West suspends or cancels the decisions taken by NATO.

[Benedetti] Next Falin discussed Europe's role, the possible value of thrusts toward a new order in international relations. He said that "Europe must remain Europe and not shift with each passing breeze..." and pointed out that it is on our continent that the detente policy has developed since the sixties. But now, he warned, "we have reached the crossroads." It is necessary "to supplement political detente with military detente, to find methods for long-term economic cooperation...."

"Of course," Falin continued, "things are not moving in the intended direction. The tension is damaging both the Americans and ourselves. And the current events will cause us a further burden in the defense field. We will have to suspend certain major economic projects.... We make no secret of these difficulties because we are well aware that the U.S. administration uses economic relations as a political tool. But we will move forward all the same.... The only path, I repeat, is that of negotiation. But there must also be positive messages and answers. For the time being these signals are lacking."

'MISSILE SLANDER' COVERS U.S. AGGRESSIVE PREPARATIONS

AU200748 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 17 Mar 80 p 7 AU

[Article by APN commentator Vladimir Ostrovskiy: "What the Pentagon's Plans Signify; Fabrications About Soviet Missiles in Afghanistan; Representative of the Soviet Army's General Staff Unmasks Washington's Lie; Aggressive Preparations of the U.S. Navy in the Persian Gulf; American Nuclear Weapons Aimed Against Islamic and Arab Countries"]

[Text] Lt Gen Nikolay Chervov, member of the Soviet Army's General Staff, has called the American slanders about Soviet tactical nuclear missiles, allegedly deployed in Afghanistan, a fantasy of lies. "Unidentified authoritative" American sources announced that Russian missiles with a range of about 150 km were reportedly deployed in Bahlan province, in Kabul and in Kandahar. There are no missiles in these areas. In fact, there are no missiles at all in Afghanistan. Most probably, Washington's absurd assertion has been disseminated to camouflage the aggressive preparations of the American Navy in the Persian Gulf, the general declared.

It also cannot be ruled out that with the help of this lie the Americans are exerting pressure on Ziaul Haq to force him to accept U.S. military "aid" and to incite the Pakistani regime to step up its interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan, General N. Chervov said.

The tasks of the American propaganda services are multifaceted. However, all their efforts are now concentrated on one of their main tasks--intimidating the Islamic and Arab world with "the threat from the Russians" and forcing their allies in NATO to sail the anti-Soviet course of the United States. For that purpose they fabricate one foolishness after another. The Voice of America has, for example, reported that Soviet troops in Afghanistan have special units for conducting bacteriological and chemical warfare, and it is being claimed that the Russians have been using napalm. Now they have invented the "nuclear tidbit." It goes without saying that nothing like that exists.

American propaganda today is guided by a highly dubious principle--the bigger the lie, the more likely it is going to be believed. The reason is the attempt to camouflage in some way the dangerous preparations of the U.S. naval forces in this part of the world and to divert the attention of the world public opinion from American expansionism.

What matters is not only the fact that more than 20 American warships are sailing in the waters of the area. The aircraft carriers Nimitz and Coral Sea are carrying 100 rounds of nuclear ammunition and more than 160 aircraft. One half of the aircraft are capable of carrying weapons as far as 1,000 kilometers. The Intruder and Corsair fighter aircraft of the naval air force, which are concentrated in the area, are designed for attacking both ground and sea targets, using conventional as well as nuclear weapons.

The Pentagon's resolve to issue the order to use tactical nuclear weapons in this area cannot be doubted. American military doctrine presumes an initial nuclear strike in any conflict, independent of the nature of the war being waged.

How does general N. Chervov assess the situation that has arisen in the Persian Gulf and the adjoining waters from the military viewpoint? Because there is a concentration of the naval air force in the area, the general said, I will cite a passage from the instructions of the U.S. Air Force.

It explicitly states: "Since there is a likelihood of the emergence of a conflict with non-nuclear countries as well as with countries with a limited nuclear potential, it is essential to have and to perfect devices for conducting combat actions under conditions involving the limited use of nuclear weapons." Even U.S. Secretary of Defense H. Brown recently confirmed that the U.S. and NATO strategy includes preparing for the possibility of an initial nuclear strike. It is apparent that the Americans are planning such adventurous and barbaric measures even though circumstances do not force them to take such steps. The fact that the U.S. national interests and security are not being threatened by anyone in the area makes this all the more monstrous. If we were to use their terminology, then we would say that no one in the area touches upon American "vital interests," the general declared.

VISHEVSKIY ON LETTERS CONDEMNING U.S. ANTIDETENTE POSTURE

LD201101 [Editorial Report LD] Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 17 March 1980 publishes on page 6 a 1,600-word S. Vishnevskiy article entitled "When They Speak the Language of Threats With Us." It is a review of PRAVDA readers' letters condemning the United States for its policy of undermining detente, exacerbating international tension and escalating the arms race. Vishnevskiy writes that "hundreds of letters arriving in the editorial offices every day graphically attest that the people and party are united and that working people wholly and fully support the Leninist course of Soviet foreign policy."

III. 21 Mar 80

A 5

USSR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
UNITED STATES & CANADA

JAPANESE FOREIGN MINISTER' ARRIVES FOR TALKS

LD190910 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 2300 GMT 18 Mar 80 LD

[From the "International Diary" program, presented by Georgiy Dzherkvelov]

[Text] Saburo Okita, the Japanese foreign minister, begins his official visit to the United States today. Over a 4-day period he will hold meetings with Vance, the secretary of state, Brown, the defense secretary, Senator Church, chairman of the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee; and it is expected that the Japanese minister will also meet President Carter. Okita's visit is looked on as a preparation for the arrival in the United States of America, of Ohira, prime minister of Japan, in the beginning of May. AFP reports that the Japanese-American talks will concentrate on matters of defense and trade. Washington will certainly try to exert pressure on Tokyo to achieve an increase in Japan's appropriations for armaments. In the field of commercial and economic relations, a conflict has long been brewing between the United States of America and Japan because the Japanese motor industry encompasses 33 percent of the USA's internal requirements, giving serious competition to American products. As for international questions, in this connection one may quote an interview which the Japanese foreign minister gave on the eve of his visit to the United States of America. He assured the American leaders that Japan intends to follow in the wake of American policy, particularly on the Afghan question. Tokyo recently doubled its financial support for the Pakistan regime.

Talks Commence

LD210845 Moscow TASS in English 0801 GMT 21 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Washington, March 21, TASS--S. Okita, minister of foreign affairs of Japan, began his talks in Washington today. It is clear from the statements made by official U.S. spokesmen that right from the outstart of the talks high-placed representatives of the U.S. administration made it clear that the United States expected Japan to give full support to anti-Soviet policy pursued by the U.S. and aimed at undermining relations between the Soviet Union and Western countries, and to the U.S. military adventures in south-west Asia. They also demand that Japan increase its military spending and the expenditure on the maintenance of the U.S. troops and bases in Japan.

U.S. Pressure on Japan

LD202046 Moscow TASS in English 1727 GMT 20 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Washington, March 20, TASS--TASS correspondent Yevgeniy Yegorov reports:

Japanese Foreign Minister S. Okita has arrived here for an official visit during which he is to hold talks with Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and other U.S. Government representatives.

American political observers say that the Carter administration hopes to use this visit to tie Japan still closer to Washington's military strategic plans and to secure Japan's support for its militaristic policy.

It is believed in U.S. ruling circles that Japan has not been quick and active enough in reacting to the zigzags of American diplomacy, be it sanctions against Iran or Washington's measures to undermine detente taken under the pretext of the events in Afghanistan.

The United States is trying to draw Tokyo into its military ventures in the Indian Ocean and the Persian Gulf area wherefrom Japan receives 75 percent of the oil it consumes. The USA also demands that the Japanese Government take upon itself a considerable share of the United States' military "burden" in the Far East, specifically increase its naval forces and buy more American arms, particularly airforce planes.

G. Ball, former undersecretary of state, demanded for instance that Japan should build two aircraft carriers and lease them to the USA.

In this connection the Washington administration insistently "recommends" Japan to increase its military budget although Japan already ranks sixth in the world for the level of military spending despite the fact that its constitution provides for Japan's refusal to use military force as a means of settling international disputes. Although the Japanese Government has more than once expressed readiness to improve its "Self-Defence Forces" and to further increase its military budget Washington considers this insufficient, accusing Japan of taking "a free ride" at the expense of the U.S. military efforts in the Far East.

In the opinion of political observers the United States is prepared, if necessary, to use all available means of political and economic pressure on Japan. This refers, first of all, to economic pressure for which the United States intends to exploit Japan's current economic difficulties--its unfavourable trade balance and inflation exceeding 20 percent.

U.S. PURSUES 'CAMPAIGN OF THREATS' TOWARD IRAN

ID202032 Moscow TASS in English 1856 GMT 20 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Washington, Mar 20, TASS--The United States is escalating a campaign of threats with regard to revolutionary Iran. Republican Senator S. Hayakawa moved a bill to Congress granting powers to the United States President to intern diplomats and other citizens of Iran as hostile elements.

At the same time preparations are under way to use American military strength against Iran. General Edward Meyer, chief of staff of the U.S. Army, said in an interview with the newspaper New York TIMES that the interventionist "quick reaction corps" will be equipped for waging combat operations in such desert and steppe regions as in the area of the Persian Gulf and the Middle East. In his words, it is best to use marines for landing on the islands or the coast, while infantry units, backed by helicopter gunships and tanks, are best for deep offensive on land or in the mountains. Senator Richard Lugar also called for a blockade of Iran and mining of its coastline.

RACHKOV: WASHINGTON 'DOUBLE DEALING' WITH WEST ON TRADE

LD201353 Moscow TASS in English 1238 GMT 20 Mar 80 LD

["Washington's Double Dealing"--TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, March 20, TASS--TASS commentator Boris Rachkov writes:

Contrary to its own calls on Western countries to pursue the policy aimed at an even distribution of the burden of the energy crisis, the United States is self-centredly using certain advantages of its own power supply for launching a vigorous offensive on the economic positions of their competitors.

The developments in the West European chemical industry are a new proof of that. Their coverage in the press resembles war-time military reports. The offensive of the overseas suppliers of synthetic fibres, threat and other products of the petrochemical industry has in the past five years been accompanied by the destruction of Western Europe's manufacturing capacities which can turn out 400,000 tons of similar products. 17,000 workers of the British imperial chemical industries alone have become redundant, while Enka's (subsidiary of the Dutch Akzo) losses have reached a huge sum.

Reports of the Council of the European Chemical Manufacturers' Associations give a better account of the devastating effect of the offensive undertaken by U.S. competitors. The tool used by U.S. concerns against their rivals is substantially lower prices on petrochemical products whose manufacture requires huge amounts of energy as well as oil and gas.

The point is that over a half of the oil used in the United States and almost the entire amount of natural gas are extracted right in the United States, and the administration strictly controls internal prices on domestic energy reserves. The administration keeps oil prices lower than the world market prices. West Europeans have to purchase almost the entire amount of oil and gas, used as fuel and raw materials, in the world market where prices increased by over 100 per cent last year alone. The wider the gap between the internal U.S. and the world prices, the higher is the competitiveness of U.S. chemical and other corporations which turn out the products whose manufacture is energy-consuming.

The Carter administration meets endless protests of West European and Japanese firms by promising them to level off in the name of Western solidarity the price advantages enjoyed by U.S. corporations. The most recent such promises came from Jimmy Carter at the economic summit meeting of Western nations in Tokyo last summer. This year the White House set forth new energy bills which replace the increase of U.S. prices with the introduction of taxes on the oil imported to the United States. Thus, the anti-inflation programme recently announced by Carter and including, among other things, the issue of taxes on imported oil, puts off the levelling of discrimination in prices at least till the end of the eighties.

MOVEMENT FOR OLYMPICS PARTICIPATION GROWS DESPITE CARTER

ID201857 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 19 Mar 80 Morning Edition p 6 LD

[Dispatch from IZVESTIYA correspondent V. Soldatov: "How Chewing Gum Became a Strategic Commodity"]

[Text] New York--At the end of February U.S. President Carter held a reception in the White House for U.S. athletes who took part in the Lake Placid Winter Olympics. At the reception the athletes handed him a letter demanding that their fellow athletes be given the chance to participate in the summer Olympic games.

The President did not answer the athletes' letter. His struggle for "human rights" is diverting his attention right away from the specific rights of individuals, notably those of U.S. athletes. But the other day the White House gave an indirect answer both to the signatories of the letter and to all those concerned about the future of the Olympic movement. President Carter "advised" U.S. companies manufacturing sports equipment not to sell anything to the Soviet Union.

Secretary of Commerce Klutznik explained that U.S. firm should repudiate "on a voluntary basis" any contracts they have already concluded. If they show no desire to do so, the commerce secretary said, the companies will have to apply for an export license, as is the case with goods of "strategic significance." The "forbidden" list includes footballs, stopwatches, portable x-ray machines, Coca-Cola, chewing gum and a number of other equally "important" commodities. Most of them were to have been supplied only because athletes from various countries are used to having them.

Why has the U.S. President chosen this moment to take a step that is difficult to take seriously? It is common knowledge that the U.S. public is beginning to take an increasingly critical attitude to the yarn it is being spun about how the U.S. Little Miss Riding Hood is being threatened by the big bad wolf. This clamorous anti-Soviet campaign needs "hyping up."

The Washington POST reminded readers of one of the reasons for the ban on exports of chewing gum and footballs. "The campaign not to go to Moscow," it wrote, "has already lost a lot of steam." The U.S. press has carried very few reports of the protests in many countries against the White House decision to boycott the summer Olympics, but it has been forced to admit that, apart from British Prime Minister M. Thatcher, the administration has no firm allies in this matter.

The White House's latest pinprick is also designed to set an "example" and to put pressure on West Europe. While the President was instructing the secretary of commerce to halt the export of sports goods to the Soviet Union, his National Security Adviser Brzezinski was addressing the National Press Club and demanding that U.S. allies also take "definite and unequivocal" measures against the Soviet Union. It was the Moscow Olympics which he had chiefly in mind.

Meanwhile, the movement for U.S. athletes to participate in the summer Olympics is growing in the United States. R. Kane, chairman of the U.S. Olympic Committee, said the other day that he hopes the U.S. athletes will take part in the Moscow games. A "combined coalition for the 1980 Olympics," comprising athletes from 28 U.S. cities, was recently created in the country. U.S. athletes want to take part in the Moscow Olympics even if Coca-Cola and chewing gum will not be on sale there.

'GUILTESS' CARTER ELECTION PROGRAM CRITICIZED

LD201409 Moscow SOVETSKAYA KULTURA in Russian 14 Mar 80 p 7 LD

[P. Kolin article under the rubric "Pointed Remarks": "Rose Garden Strategy"]

[Text] "Not support the President? That's unpatriotic! Especially at a time of severe domestic and foreign policy crises loyal Americans must rally around their President." This is the essence of the guileless election program which the current U.S. President Carter is pursuing in the hope of remaining in the White House for a second term. American newspapers have not failed to notice that, while the various candidates from the Democratic and Republican parties are slaughtering each other in the election battles, the President, "wrapping himself in the national flag" like a Roman toga, has put himself forward for general viewing as some kind of symbol of irreproachability and statesmanship whom it would be a crime to oppose. The President answers all proposals from his rivals to step down and test his strength in an honest fight with a haughty silence, trying to convince the voters that he is quite unaffected by the changeable election climate.

"Carter's intention not to take part in the debates and the election campaign is disrespectfully described as a 'rose garden strategy,' implying that the President will conduct his election campaign from the White House where he is fenced off from involvement in the political skirmishes which the other aspirants encounter," America's New York TIMES writes. "The 'rose garden strategy' is indeed in the end simply a trick designed to give voters the impression that the President is too busy solving state problems to take part in the election campaign."

Well, up to now this strategy has served Carter well. Moreover, it has by no means limited his ability to participate in the election campaign anyway. He conducts hundreds, maybe even thousands of personal telephone conversations with voters in the states where the primaries are taking place. He holds luxurious receptions in the White House for mayors, governors and other influential officials and politicians from these states. The President sends his wife Rosalynn and other members of his family together with Vice President Mondale and many cabinet members to conduct election agitation in his behalf. "These people are often armed with federal subsidies which they hand out to voters along the way," the New York TIMES notes.

In short, the hypocrisy and bigotry which the current White House administration has demonstrated hitherto (remember the notorious campaign "in defense of human rights" or the patronage "for humane reasons" of the bloody shah and the dictator Somoza) has been displayed once again in all its unsightly splendor.

Worse still, the White House has no reasonable grounds for such ambitions and claims to infallibility. The discrepancy between Carter's promises and his achievements in the domestic policy is too great. No opposition party since the times of Herbert Hoover has had such a brilliant opportunity to criticize everything which troubles American families: the level of prices, unemployment, taxes, lack of security in old age and uncertainty about their children's future.

"What has this man got to smile about when the economy is in danger?" The New York DAILY NEWS asks. "Why," the newspaper writes, "is Carter so pleased with an economic policy which has brought the national economy to its current state, when almost everyone else is on the verge of panic? The answer is that Carter either does not realize that we are approaching an economic crisis or is occupied with what really concerns him--the election.... With annual inflation averaging 18 percent, prime interest rate at an all-time record of 16.75 percent, unemployment again above the 6-percent mark and continuing to increase, and the economic indicators indicating a recession, it is simply impossible to believe that the President does not realize that his economic policy has failed. If J. Carter had fulfilled his economic election promises, the main causes of inflation would have been eliminated."

The well-known American political observer James Reston writes: "I returned in a rather gloomy mood, brought about by thoughts of the election campaign, to an old list of political sayings by one of my idols, the French poet Paul Valery. He, of course, knew nothing of the New Hampshire primaries but he said things which retain their force even today:

"In order to survive, governments have to go back on what they promised when they were starting out...."

"All political life is based on the indifference of the majority of those whom it affects...."

"One gets the impression that too often politics, however disgusting it may be, is inevitably subject to considerations of advantage which force us to promise the impossible, to play on credulity, enthusiasm, instincts and all the other human illusions, forcing us to reckon with fools, to flatter people who disgust us, to humiliate people whom we value highly.... And all this for the sake of gaining or retaining "power."

"Political considerations force us to suppress everything not in keeping with them. Politics makes every effort to present everything in an incorrect light.... I confess that the spectacle of the world of politics makes me feel sick...."

"I think that all this is by no means harmless to our young people. Who will find them new ideals which can really inspire them?"

"This was the main question," Reston concludes, "that Valery asked about politics almost 50 years ago. And it remains the main question for American politics today."

III. 21 Mar 80

U S S R I N T E R N A T I O N A L A F F A I R S
CHINA

B 1

USSR, PRC HOLD BORDER RIVER NAVIGATION TALKS

OW201241 Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in Mandarin to Southeast Asia 1000 GMT
20 Mar 80 OW

[Text] The Soviet-Chinese joint Commission for Navigation on Boundary Rivers held its 22d meeting in China from 5 February to 19 March. In accordance with the agreement signed in 1951, the two sides agreed on some concrete measures to insure navigation and a protocol was signed at the meeting.

'INFORMATION LEAK' SUGGESTS PRC-JAPAN MILITARY COOPERATION

LD210938 Moscow TASS in English 0911 GMT 21 Mar 80 LD

["Information Leak or Probing?"--TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, March 21, TASS--"A report about one secret initiative of Beijing has filtered into the Japanese press," Vsevolod Ovchinnikov writes in PRAVDA today. The newspapers, referring to KYODO, told the readers that Chinese Deputy Defence Minister Su Yu, meeting two Japanese guests from the National Defence Agency, suggested that the two countries exchange instructors and cadets of military schools. Since this proposal was made on behalf of the Chinese Government, it may be qualified as a step toward Sino-Japanese cooperation in the military field. In the opinion of local observers Beijing's initiative hardly came as a surprise to Tokyo. Earlier too, China sounded Japan on this question through various channels.

Inasmuch as the content of the above-mentioned conversation was a closely guarded secret, the leak of information about it to the Japanese press was likely a deliberate one. It is noteworthy that in some newspapers commentators suggest [as received] stress the idea that such an exchange with China could be beneficial to Japan and would be a great help in studying the military and political situation in the Far East in the light of the notorious "Soviet military menace".

Who knows, perhaps it would not be bad for some persons in Tokyo to learn at first hand about some of the pearls of the Maoist military doctrine: say, Beijing's thesis that China needs not fear a world thermo-nuclear war because poor countries which have nothing to lose will suffer less from such a war than rich countries.

Another question is whether the people of Japan, the third biggest industrial power of the world, with a dense population, the nation which lived through the tragedy of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, will be ready to share this view.

III. 21 Mar 80

U S S R I N T E R N A T I O N A L A F F A I R S
NORTHEAST ASIA

C 1

FRG MINISTER STRESSES FRG-USSR TRADE TIES AT TOKYO MEETING

LD171222 Moscow TASS in English 1023 GMT 17 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Tokyo, March 17, TASS--Speaking at a meeting today with Japanese Minister of Trade and Industry Yoshitake Sasaki, FRG Minister of Finance Hans Matthoefer declared for continuing trade and economic cooperation with the Soviet Union.

The West German minister arrived in Tokyo on Sunday for talks with Japanese cabinet members on international and bilateral trade-economic and monetary problems.

Hans Matthoefer has as a matter of fact refused to join in Washington's demands for "economic sanctions" against the USSR. "Relations between the FRG and the Soviet Union in the field of trade radically differ as regards their volume from what is taking place in U.S.-Soviet relations," he pointed out. Economic ties between the FRG and the USSR are very close. There are all sorts of agreements between the two countries, and these agreements must be strictly abided by, the FRG minister of finance stressed.

SONODA TOUR SHOWS JAPANESE 'SUBORDINATION TO U.S. DIKTAT'

LD201239 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 19 Mar 80 Morning Edition p 4 LD

[S. Chugrov article under the rubric "On International Topics": "Under Partner's Pressure"]

[Text] S. Sonoda, the Japanese prime minister's special representative, has completed a diplomatic marathon during which he visited a number of Near East countries, Pakistan and India.

Back in January Foreign Minister S. Okita, speaking in parliament, highlighted as one of the most important avenues of Japanese foreign policy the establishment of a "truly longed-for Japanese presence in the Near East." It was therefore announced that the aim of Sonoda's mission was "to contribute to the cause of peace and stability in the region." In actual fact it was a cast of strengthening Japan's positions in the Near East countries, which meet 80 percent of Japanese requirements for liquid fuel.

This unofficial goal of the visit was mainly attained: The oil extracting countries promised Japan guaranteed oil deliveries. As for the official goal--contributing to the consolidation of peace and stability in the Near East and Asia--it was reflected most strangely during the trip. The impression you get is that the Japanese was accompanied everywhere by the invisible shadow of his transatlantic patrons: S. Sonoda ostentatiously voiced full support for the aggressive U.S. course in the Persian Gulf and Indian Ocean region.

It is easy to note that Japan--voluntarily or not--is copying not only Washington's demarche but its fluctuations. The U.S. administration recently disavowed the actions of its representative in the UN Security Council who voted for the resolution condemning Israel's creation of paramilitary settlements on occupied Arab territories. Almost simultaneously a similar metamorphosis took place with regard to Japan. On the eve of Sonoda's trip the Ministry of International Trade and Industry and other Japanese departments supported the idea of establishing direct contacts with the PLO. The Tokyo emissary announced his intention to meet with PLO leaders in Damascus. However, during the trip, receiving relevant instructions from Tokyo, Sonoda refused personal contacts with the PLO leaders.

A unique chain can be traced: Israel, acting through the Zionist lobby in Washington, puts pressure on the U.S. administration and the latter in turn gives a sharp pull on the reins and forces Japan to agree to the policy of rejecting diplomatic recognition of the PLO.

The results of Sonoda's talks in Islamabad attest no less eloquently to Japan's subordination to U.S. diktat. Under the pretext of the alleged "Soviet peril" which has arisen in connection with the events in Afghanistan, the Japanese Government representative promised President Ziaul Haq a sharp increase in economic aid to Pakistan, supplying it with 32 billion yen. There can be no doubts as to how these funds will be used. After all, while generously opening their purse to Pakistan, which is making its territory available to CIA agents and Chinese "advisers" to carry out acts of subversion against Afghanistan and knock together armed gangs, the Japanese authorities at the same time decided to freeze economic aid to Afghanistan.

Through Washington's efforts the olive branch in Sonoda's hands wilted, and the widely publicized declarations which poured forth from him on the eve of his visit proved to be empty phrases. Sonoda's "peacemaking mission" turned into an act at variance with the interests of peace and stability in the Near and Middle East.

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON 31ST ANNIVERSARY OF USSR-DPRK TIES

Hall of Friendship Meeting

SK210834 Moscow in Korean to Korea 0910 GMT 18 Mar 80 SK

[Unattributed reporter's "on-the-spot" report on 17 March Moscow meeting celebrating 31st anniversary of the conclusion of the Soviet-DPRK economic and cultural agreement]

[Excerpts] The meeting, held on 17 March at the Hall of Friendship, was attended by leaders and activists of the Soviet-DPRK friendship society, workers, scholars and students. Staff members of the DPRK Embassy, including Kim Chae-pong, DPRK ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the Soviet Union, were greeted warmly. At the meeting, Comrade Eysmont, vice chairman of the Central Committee of the Soviet-Korean Friendship Society and deputy minister of heavy and transport machine building, made a report. [brief recording in Russian, followed by announcer in Korean]

Comrade Eysmont said: The economic and cultural agreement signed on 17 March 1949 marked the start of the development of relations between the Soviet Union and Korea in economic, cultural and other areas on the basis of complete equality, reciprocity and mutual assistance. The principles and basic items of this agreement were reconfirmed in the agreement on friendship, cooperation and mutual assistance signed between the Soviet Union and Korea in 1962, which has inspired the consolidation of overall friendship and cooperation between the two countries and which has become an important device for peace and security on the Korean Peninsula and in the Far East and has become a firm guarantee of the fraternal Korean peoples socialist gains.

The reporter continued to say: The efforts of Soviet workers, technicians and scholars are incorporated in the achievements of the fraternal Korean workers. In the past the Soviet Union helped the DPRK in reconstructing and erecting many industrial enterprises, and even now it is assisting the country in erecting and reconstructing large facilities which will guarantee an increase in the production of steel and rolled steel products and in power generation. On many industrial sites in the DPRK, Soviet technicians and engineers are working shoulder to shoulder with Korean technicians.

They are helping their Korean friends to handle machines and facilities we have sent them and sharing their experience with them, thus contributing to promoting friendship between the Soviet Union and Korea.

Next Comrade Kim Chae-pong, DPRK ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the Soviet Union, came to the stage amid the warm welcome of the attendants. He said as follows. At a time when our two countries are maintaining good relations with each other, we are celebrating the 31st anniversary of the conclusion of the agreement between the two countries.

Comrade Kim Chae-pong thanked the Union of Soviet Societies for Friendship and Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries and the Central Committee of the Soviet-Korean Friendship Society for organizing the meeting and inviting him to it. Taking this opportunity, he sent sincere greetings to the Soviet people, in the name of the Korean people.

[Begin recording] The friendship and (?cooperation) between our two countries is continuously developing well. The Korean people cherish friendship with the Soviet people, their long-time comrades-in-arms and close brothers, and will make all possible efforts to continuously develop and strengthen it. In conclusion, I sincerely wish you greater success in your implementation of the tasks of the last year of the 5-year plan. [applause] [End recording]

Razuvayev Report

LD201345 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 17 Mar 80 p 4 LD

[Correspondent V. Razuvayev dispatch: "Based on Equal Rights"]

[Text] Pyongyang, 16 March--Economic and cultural ties are developing yearly between the Soviet Union and the DPRK. They have helped and are helping in many ways to strengthen the traditional bonds of friendship between the two fraternal countries' peoples and to accelerate the building of socialism in the DPRK.

In people's Korea, when it freed itself from the colonial yoke and began building a new life, there were only approximately 300 metalworking machine tools and there was no machine building as such. By relying on assistance from the USSR and other fraternal countries the republic's working people created entire sectors of industry. For example, the Pukchang and Pyongyang thermal electric power stations, the biggest in the country, were constructed with the USSR's technical assistance. Many DPRK enterprises are equipped with Soviet machine tools and equipment.

The agreement on economic and cultural cooperation between the USSR and the DPRK, which was signed 17 March 31 years ago, is the reliable basis of fraternal cooperation. This was the first international agreement in Korean history to be concluded on the basis of the principles of proletarian internationalism, full equality of rights, mutual advantage and comradely mutual assistance.

GOLOVIN REFUTES SPANISH JOURNAL CRITICISM OF AFGHAN INTERVENTION

LD191536 Moscow TASS in English 1408 GMT 19 Mar 80 LD

["Of the Friends and the Enemies of Independent, Revolutionary Afghanistan"--TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, March 19, TASS--Follows an article by Oleg Golovin published in the NEW TIMES weekly.

The noisy campaign mounted as if by order by the bourgeois mass media in connection with the Afghan developments is continuing unabated in the West, capitalizing on the fact that until now a great many people have heard very little about the Afghan revolution or, at any rate, have had only the vaguest notion of it. The imperialist propaganda-mongers have been pouring out avalanches of lies and slander in an effort to discredit Afghanistan, its leaders, and, of course, the Soviet Union and the assistance it has rendered its southern neighbour. In these circumstances even progressive-minded people are asking questions about what is happening in Afghanistan.

One version that has latterly gained currency in the West is that there has been no revolution at all in Afghanistan. It is made to appear as if what happened in April 1978 in Kabul was just another military coup. This contention is to be found, for instance, in an editorial in the NUESTRA BANDERA (No 102, January-February 1980), the theoretical and political journal of the Communist Party of Spain edited by one of the party's leading functionaries, Manuel Azcarate.

How do things really stand?

The fact is that what happened in Afghanistan in April 1978 was a revolution--an anti-feudal, anti-imperialist, democratic revolution. It was an eruption of protest accumulated over the years among the country's working people and patriots against a feudal regime intolerable in the twentieth century, against age-old poverty and want, against the oppression of the majority of the population.

The revolution was prepared and led by the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, which by April 1978 had a membership of tens of thousands. It had worked among the masses for thirteen years, was the predominant influence in the trade unions, and enjoyed wide support among the workers, intellectuals, government employees and students. Of utmost significance was the extensive work it conducted in the army. This explains why the army became the spearhead force of the Afghan revolution.

The culminating point in the April 1978 revolution indeed was the taking of the presidential palace by army units. But the revolution was by no means confined to this. Simultaneously with the Kabul events, people's government was established in all the large cities and inhabited areas of the country. It stands to reason that this could not be done without the support of the broad masses--the working peasantry, the working class, the handicraftsmen, small shopkeepers, impoverished nomads, intellectuals, patriotic-minded groups of the national bourgeoisie and the Moslem clergy, of all the peoples of multinational Afghanistan.

The Afghan working people demonstrated their support of the reforms that were introduced and their loyalty to the ideals of the revolution not only by their participation in mass meetings and manifestations, but also in forms that had no precedent in the country and thus testified to the far-reaching changes taking place in the social consciousness of the people.

Here are a few examples. Already in the first year of the revolution the working people donated hundreds of millions of afghanis to diverse funds set up to finance democratic reforms. Countrywide public movements, such as the movement of voluntary labour, sprang up. People in towns and villages joined efforts to improve their localities and repair and build hospitals, schools, and housing. A hitherto unheard-of emulation movement among factories and urban neighbourhoods emerged. An active role in launching these reforms of labor and public activity was played by the trade unions, women's and youth organizations and peasant committees which were set up after the revolution. Was this not evidence that the new regime had an expanding popular base?

The country set about carrying out an agrarian reform, putting an end to illiteracy and giving effect to many other socioeconomic changes.

As is the case in any revolution that strikes at the interests of the old ruling classes and groups, the local reactionaries and imperialism were not reconciled to this. In Afghanistan itself the forces that had been toppled from power came out against the revolution and the changes being introduced, launched a struggle against the new system. The feudal element, the usurers, the chiefs of some tribes, and a section of the top and middle clergy supported by external forces, embarked on armed struggle.

The new, democratic system was met with unconcealed hostility in the United States and also in such of Afghanistan's neighbour-countries as Pakistan and China. These countries launched out on wide-scale subversion with the object, first, of strangling the Afghan revolution, and, second, of creating on the Soviet Union's southern frontiers a new reactionary stronghold to replace, as the servitor of imperialism in the Middle East, the regime of the shah which had been shaken and was later swept away by the people of Iran.

As the press repeatedly reported, this subversive activity acquired an ever wider scale. Bands numbering thousands were formed, armed with American, Chinese and Pakistani weapons and trained by instructors from these countries, and towards the end of 1979 these bands significantly stepped up their activity. Even the Western press carried reports about large-scale operations being in preparation with the aim of setting up in Afghanistan a reactionary regime dependent on the United States. The very existence of Afghanistan as an independent state was in grave danger.

The external threat was aggravated by a number of [word indistinct] party of Afghanistan two groupings [as received] the Parcham (banner) and Khalq (the people), and in the latter a group emerged headed by Hafizollah Amin which already in Nur Mohammad Taraki's lifetime sought to capitalize on the absence of party unity to seize the main levers of power. Needless to say, only the leadership of the PDP can give a full evaluation of the complexities of the country's post-revolutionary development and the objective and subjective causes of the difficulties encountered.

The evidence that has now come to light shows that Amin and his group, taking advantage of Taraki's credulity, wove behind his back a conspiracy inimical to the people and hounded honest patriots and revolutionaries, not stopping even at the killing of the finest cadres of the Afghan revolution. This criminal activity was stepped up especially after Amin had perfidiously removed President Taraki from the leadership and then killed him.

The end of 1979 was a truly tragic time for the Afghan revolution. Amin and his henchmen organized wholesale killings of patriots, both members of the DP and non-party people, servicemen and civilians, heroes of the April revolution and ordinary people who did not agree with his policy. The investigation now being conducted by the competent Afghan authorities has shown that this was a deliberate design aimed at eliminating all the sound forces in the country in preparation for open transition into the imperialist camp.

Some Western observers now maintain that the excesses all but reduced the revolution to naught, or at any rate resulted in its degeneration. This, however, is a totally erroneous conclusion.

There is no doubt that Amin's activity wrought serious harm to the Afghan revolution, in particular by causing vacillation and sowing doubt among part of the population, and played into the hands of the counter-revolutionaries in their efforts to discredit the people's government. But equally clear is that Amin's actions did not abolish all the gains of the revolution. The character of the revolution did not change, it remained the expression of the aspirations and hopes of the masses of Afghan working people.

Thus, as a result of aggression from without, on the one hand, and of the criminal policy pursued by Amin, on the other, a serious threat to the independence of Afghanistan and its continued existence as a sovereign democratic state arose in the second half of December 1979.

In these circumstances, taking into account the gravity of the situation, the Soviet Union decided to respond to the repeated requests for assistance and to despatch to Afghanistan a limited contingent of Soviet troops.

Incidentally, the above-mentioned NUESTRA BANDERA editorial alleges that the "argument" has been advanced in the Soviet Union that the Soviet troop contingent was sent in to "save the socialist or near-socialist system in that country." No one in the USSR has used, or could have used, such terminology. What was, and still is in question is the defense of Afghanistan's independence against external aggression, against gross interference from without. It should be borne in mind that the assistance was extended at the request of the Afghan Government and in full conformity with the treaty of friendship, goodneighbourliness and cooperation concluded by the USSR and Afghanistan in 1978, as well as with the principles of international law and the United Nations Charter.

As regards Afghanistan's internal affairs, the Soviet Union has never interfered in them and is not interfering now. The fact that Amin was removed at the time the entry of the Soviet military contingent began is merely a coincidence. There is no casual connection between the two. The change of leadership on December 27 last year was effected by the Afghans themselves, including some who were members of the party and government leadership under Amin.

The limited contingent of Soviet troops is in Afghanistan temporarily and only to repulse intervention from without.

In his February 22 speech to the electorate, Leonid Brezhnev said: "The U.S.S.R. will withdraw its military contingents from Afghanistan as soon as the reasons for their presence there disappears and the Afghan Government considers it no longer necessary. The United States is clamouring for the withdrawal of the Soviet troops while in effect doing every thing to put off such a possibility by continuing and stepping up interference in Afghanistan's affairs. I wish to declare most emphatically: We shall be ready to begin withdrawing our troops as soon as all forms of interference from without directed against the Government and people of Afghanistan are completely discontinued. Let the United States together with Afghanistan's neighbours guarantee this, and there no longer will be any need for Soviet military aid."

The important thing now is to create conditions that would enable the Afghan people to achieve the aims of their revolution and to uphold their right to independent development without interference from the outside. It must be said, however, that articles such as the NUESTRA BANDERA editorial are not conducive to this.

It is in place to note that the overwhelming majority of communist and workers' parties have assessed the events connected with the change of leadership in Afghanistan at the end of December 1979 from class, internationalist positions. In statements and articles they have welcomed the steps taken by the new leadership headed by Babrak Karmal to restore legality and ensure public safety in the country and to return to the ideals of the April revolution. They have also welcomed the help given by the Soviet Union to protect Afghanistan against intervention by hostile external forces.

Nor can one agree with abstract, in effect opportunist disquisitions to the effect that "to neutralize the imperialist intrigues", a "truly popular" revolution must count only on itself, on its own forces, plus the exclusively moral and economic "support of other peoples." It would thus appear that the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries, the communist parties and revolutionary movements should sit back with folded arms and passively look on while the interventionist and counter-revolutionary forces of imperialism drown the independent Democratic Republic of Afghanistan in blood, so as to turn it into a support base for neo-colonialism.

If anyone, it is our Spanish friends who should not forget that during its national revolutionary war republican Spain enjoyed the support of progressive forces the world over; including the support of the Soviet Union. At that time too the class enemy raised an outcry about "Soviet intervention" in Spain's affairs. On the other hand, Britain, France, and other Western countries proclaimed a policy of non-intervention which the Fascists made use of to drown the Spanish revolution in blood. Incidentally, the hypocritical signs of the Second International of those years--which, while voicing sympathy with the Spanish Republic in words, in practice refrained from rendering concrete assistance on the plea of "non-intervention"--far from impeding, in effect played into the hands of Fascism.

Only he is a true internationalist and genuine champion of peace who not in words, but in deeds wages a resolute struggle against the aggressive policy of imperialism, against its attempts to enslave other countries and to turn them into its vassals. Support of Democratic Afghanistan, which is fighting for social progress and repulsing the co-ordinated attacks of U.S. imperialism, Chinese hegemonism and the dictatorial regime of Pakistan, is a contribution to the common cause of national independence and the strengthening of the forces of democracy and progress, to the security of the peoples of this part of Asia and the whole world.

AFGHANISTAN'S KARMAL CALLS FOR THIRD WORLD SUPPORT

LD201750 Moscow TASS in English 1635 GMT 20 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 20. TASS--The Soviet Union is helping us uphold the path we have chosen and we are deeply grateful to it, said Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, chairman of the Revolutionary Council and the prime minister of the DRA, in an interview with a correspondent of the WORLD MARXIST REVIEW magazine. He dwelt specifically on the reasons why certain circles of Islamic states and the non-aligned movement support the slanderous anti-Afghan campaign conducted by imperialist and Maoist ruling circles and the press.

The war, we Afghans are waging, was imposed on us by the imperialist-Beijing aggressors, is a just war. The Third World countries, the nonaligned countries and the Islamic countries ought to support us, Babrak Karmal said. It is the character of our national liberation struggle, of our revolution coupled with the traditional antiSovietism of its opponents, that causes imperialism to set against us primarily reactionary regimes similar to those of Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan and to incite them to hostile actions against us and the Soviet Union.

As to other countries which are looking up to the Soviet Union as their natural ally (and these countries make up a majority, as was shown by the sixth nonaligned summit conference in Havana)--i.e. countries with whom we share a desire for independence, elimination of backwardness, higher living standards, a policy of nonalignment--I think that the reason why some of them adopted a wrong position is their being insufficiently informed and the domination of imperialist mass information media.

As soon as imperialism felt that it would not be able to strangle our revolution it began, because of its nature, to make attempts to isolate us from our friends. It is in the light of these attempts by imperialism, attempts, which, we believe, will eventually fail, that we regard the conference of Moslem countries in Islamabad.

As is known, some of its participants tried to present the matter as if the Soviet Union and the USA were threatening in equal measure the Islamic countries. This position, this attempt to stay "equally removed" from socialist and the imperialist world was reflected in the conference's final resolution. But how it is possible to this day to shut the eyes to the fact that a keen struggle is going on in the world between the forces of revolution and progress and the forces of reaction and imperialism, struggle directly affecting the destinies of nonaligned countries, including the Islamic ones? Adoption of the attitude of an outside observer in this struggle only helps the imperialist to distract the attention of Islamic countries from the real danger that comes to them and to what they hold holy from the shameful collusion between As-Sadat and Begin and from Carter's claims for the USA to have "special vital interests" in the Indian Ocean and the Persian Gulf area, his threat to "defend" these interests by military force.

We are convinced, Babrak Karmal said, that if not for the events in Afghanistan they would have found another excuse for aggravating the international situation, for developing confrontation with the Soviet Union.

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Such an excuse might be the events in Iran which they are now trying to intimidate with the Soviet menace and to set against Afghanistan, the situation in South-East Asia or elsewhere.

Frankly speaking Babrak Karmal said, that we, Afghans, are surprised by the attitude adopted in the international arena by some progressive forces representing the interests of the working class.

It is alleged that the actions of the Soviet Union, taken at our request, violate the basic principles of peaceful coexistence which constitute an integral part of the best traditions of the international working class.

We are confident that as a result of our efforts and solidarity of all the revolutionary forces with us the mist will clear and those who have been misled will see the real significance of the Afghan events and of Soviet assistance.

AFGHAN FOREIGN MINISTER INTERVIEW WITH LEBANESE WEEKLY NOTED

LD211104 Moscow TASS in English 1045 GMT 21 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Beirut, March 21, TASS--The policy pursued by Afghanistan is in the interests of establishing relations of friendship and cooperation with all countries, including those with Pakistan, with the people of which we have longstanding and strong contacts, Shah Mohammad Dost, minister of foreign affairs of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan (DRA), said in an interview with the Lebanese weekly AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI.

The Afghan Government, he said, repeatedly expressed readiness to solve the existing problems and differences with any side by peaceful means, without resorting to the use of force. Our foes, however, on the contrary, are trying to make use of the 'Afghan question' which they themselves invented to attain their criminal ends. S.M. Dost sharply condemned the slanderous campaign which U.S. imperialism and reaction unleashed against the Soviet Union and against its internationalist assistance to the DRA in the struggle against outside aggression.

The USSR, the minister emphasized, came to our aid in response to our repeated requests for the rendering of assistance in repulsing the aggression.

Having pointed out that there are no problems which would hinder the establishment of friendly relations between Afghanistan and Iran, S.M. Dost refuted the Western propaganda fabrications about concentration of Soviet troops on the Afghan-Iranian border.

The DRA's minister of foreign affairs pointed out in conclusion that after the April revolution entered a new stage of its development, favorable conditions have developed in the country for the return home of those Afghans who earlier had to emigrate.

REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL MEMBER SARWARI ADDRESSES QANDAHAR MEETING

LD202230 Moscow TASS in English 2207 GMT 20 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Kabul, March 20, TASS--Deputy chairman of the Revolutionary Council of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan A. Sarwari sharply condemned the interference by American imperialism, Beijing hegemonists, Pakistani reaction, as well as Egypt and Israel in Afghanistan's domestic affairs.

Addressing a mass meeting in Qandahar, he urged the city residents to rally around the broad national front to uphold the gains of the April revolution, independence and sovereignty of the country. He expressed confidence that the reactionary forces will not succeed in pushing the young republic away from the path it has chosen.

PRAVDA DESCRIBES SOVIET TROOP ACTIVITIES, AFGHAN REACTION

LD201505 [Editorial Report LD] Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 16 March 1980 publishes on page 6, under the headline "In the Mountains--Beyond the Mountains"-and the rubric "From an Afghan Diary," a 1,650-word reportage by PRAVDA special correspondent Capt V. Verstakov on a visit to a Soviet subunit at an unspecified location in the mountains of Afghanistan. Verstakov flies in with the mail to the "temporary tent garrison," of which "there are not all that many". He gives a detailed account of the facilities at the camp, noting that it has a water-filtration plant, bath and laundry tents and an electricity supply. He continues:

"It is an ordinary picture that I have often seen during exercises large and small, and simply when troops have gone out into the field, where the army's usual daily combat training is organized under complex conditions. Training continues here too, although, of course, it is not for the sake of training that subunits crossed a state border. They came to help a friendly country defend its revolutionary gains and repel external aggression.

"V.F. Yegorov, commander of the scout subunit, tells me in the staff tent what the gangs sent into Afghanistan from abroad are like:

"...Right from the start we had the feeling that they are well organized, have a warning system, are trained for mountain operations and are skillful at camouflage. They mostly have infantry arms and also motorcycles and jeeps. At the spot where another gang had been routed the Afghans found a company duty officer's armband, a duty roster and a bundle of prepared identity cards: Just glue on a photograph and you would have one more documented dushman"

"In translation the word dushman means 'enemy.' That is what people here call the bandits sent into the country. The whole world knows who trains them, and where. The bandits do not confine themselves to acts of sabotage and are trying to extend their influence to entire regions, usually inaccessible mountain areas. In those places their terror is particularly ruthless. They shoot activists, teachers, any dissenters. That is why the very fact of the presence of fraternal Soviet soldiers on Afghan soil at a difficult moment is so important to the Afghan people. That is why the gangs offer such fierce resistance to Afghan troops' raids into inaccessible and remote areas."

Verstakov now provides an account of a visit by helicopter to a nearby Afghan unit, a subunit which "is finishing a mountain raid." He recounts how the raiding subunit was helped by local children to repair a "section of road destroyed by the bandits" and notes that the raid was "difficult" inasmuch as "the road was scarcely wide enough to take the wheels and tracks" of the Afghan soldiers' vehicles.

He continues: "When I have talked with our soldiers and officers in Afghanistan I have always asked what helps them to endure day after day the burdens of unsettled camp life and separation from their families. The answer has always been the same: a feeling of sincere friendship for the Afghan people, who are experiencing difficult times."

After a digression on the poverty of Afghanistan, Verstakov continues: "The peasants tell the soldiers that life seemed to be beginning, little by little, to improve after the April revolution, but then unknown armed men appeared in the mountains; they would go into settlements and seize everything. The Afghan people, still to a considerable extent disunited because of tribal and language difficulties and the undeveloped road system, and overwhelmingly illiterate, are only beginning to learn the whole truth about these people from the mountains and about those who are sending them in, instructing them and supplying them with weapons. They are also beginning to learn of the treachery that was hatched in the country's leadership and of Amin's unchecked love of power and tyrannical ways.

"The Soviet soldiers know that truth and profoundly realize that they have gone in to the neighboring country at the request of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan Government for the sole purpose of defending the friendly Afghan people. What is needed is time so the Afghan people can rally together and, after investigating the essence of events, again stride firmly toward a new life."

Verstakov concludes with two anecdotes exemplifying "the reliable and close friendly relations" between Soviet and Afghan soldiers.

PRAVDA accompanies Verstakov's reportage with a photograph showing smiling Afghan peasants--"residents of Khayrkhana"--clambering onto the turret of an armored vehicle to greet cheerful Soviet soldiers.

SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA HITS DIE ZEIT CLAIM OF AFGHAN-SOVIET HOSTILITY

LD210815 [Editorial Report LD] Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 16 March 1980 publishes on page 5 a 1,500-word telephone dispatch from special correspondent O. Oparin in Kabul under the headline "Soap Bubbles." Oparin refers to a page from West Germany's DIE ZEIT which claims that the Afghans "hate the Russians bitterly," and goes on to report comments on the article by people in Kabul. He cites criticisms of the article and favorable comments on the Soviet Union and on Soviet assistance to Afghanistan in supplying equipment and training specialists. He concludes:

"So we have cited only a few interviews on the malicious DIE ZEIT article. We have talked with chance acquaintances. Chance acquaintances, but real people. As we see, they all give the same answer. This answer exposes the lies of the Western hired slanderers who are trying to cause a quarrel between the friendly Afghan and Soviet peoples. It also explains why people in Afghanistan--and not only here--are so mistrustful, to put it mildly, of bourgeois journalists, because those journalists openly and uncereceremoniously serve the goals of imperialist, neocolonialist and hegemonist policy."

TRUD REPORTS MOSCOW ARRIVAL OF AFGHAN TRADE UNION ACTIVISTS

LD201627 Moscow TRUD in Russian 18 Mar 80 p 3 LD

[Unattributed report: "Delegation From Afghanistan"]

[Text] At the invitation of the AUCCTU a delegation of trade union activists from the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan arrived in Moscow 16 March to familiarize itself with the activity of Soviet trade unions.

The delegation will have talks and meetings at the AUCCTU, will visit industrial enterprises in Moscow and Leningrad and will learn about Soviet people's living and labor conditions.

VARIATION TO AFGHAN FOREIGN MINISTRY REQUEST

Comparison of the item entitled "Afghan Foreign Ministry Requests 'Documents' From U.S. Embassy" published in the 17 March Soviet Union DAILY REPORT, page D 4 with the TASS Report entitled "Afghan Foreign Ministry Note" published in Moscow PRAVDA in Russian on 17 March 1980 on page 5 reveals the following variations:

Page D 5, PRAVDA omits the fourth paragraph.

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON PRC MILITARY DELEGATION IN PAKISTAN

Discussion of Arms Deliveries

LD200931 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 17 Mar 80 p 5 LD

[Correspondent V. Baykov dispatch under the general headline "'Joint Strategy'"]

[Text] Islamabad, 16 March--A PRC military delegation headed by Xiao Ke, president of the Military and Political Academy of the Chinese People's Liberation Army, is in Pakistan. If we are to believe official explanations, the arrival of the Chinese military is a "goodwill" visit. However, local commentators frankly point out that the Beijing visitors' aims are far from peaceful. They point out that already during the first round of the talks which have begun in Islamabad they are discussing, above all, the broadening of the two countries' cooperation in the military sphere, as well as an increase in deliveries of Chinese weapons to the Pakistani Army. Agreement was reached on this in principle, as is known, during PRC Foreign Minister Huang Hua's visit to Pakistan at the beginning of this year. He assured his Pakistani colleagues at the time that China will "satisfy in full" Pakistan's arms requirements. It also is not ruled out here that the question of coordinating subversive actions against the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan will also be touched on at the talks.

End of Talks

LD201533 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 19 Mar 80 p 5 LD

[TASS report: "They Will Increase Weapons Deliveries"]

[Text] Islamabad, 18 March--Pakistani-Chinese talks on further extending Chinese military aid to Pakistan ended here today. As ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN reports, the Pakistani delegation at the talks was headed by Pakistani President Gen Ziaul Haq and the Chinese delegation by Xiao Ke, president of the Military and Political Academy of the Chinese People's Liberation Army and head of a military delegation which is on a 6-day visit here.

As observers note, the discussion of the question of increasing military deliveries from China to Pakistan took place in the conditions of the continuing escalation of the anti-Afghan campaign here and the stepping up of subversive activity aimed against the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. To date China has granted Pakistan military and economic aid worth \$2 billion.

Observers believe that within the framework of the so-called "joint Chinese-American strategy" coordinated during the visit of Pentagon chief H. Brown to the PRC it is planned to increase deliveries of Chinese weapons to the Pakistani Army. Here Washington is making it clear that the expansion of military cooperation between Beijing and Islamabad would accord with U.S. military strategic designs in South Asia.

IZVESTIYA CRITICIZES PAKISTANI POLICY TOWARD INDIA

LD201811 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Mar 80 Morning Edition p 5 LD

[Article by V. Nikolayev: "Justified Alarm"]

[Text] Washington's present course toward undermining detente and exacerbating the international situation is accompanied by actions in various parts of the world endangering the cause of peace. The United States has forced its "missile" plans on the West European countries, has massed a naval armada off the coast of Iran, is stepping up the arming of the anti-Arab deal participants, Israel and Egypt, is in a hurry to stretch out a network of military bases in the Indian Ocean, the Near and Middle East and Africa and is actively involving Pakistan in the implementation of its plans directed against the countries and peoples of southern and western Asia. Beijing is also participating in these dangerous actions.

As is known, the ruling regime in Pakistan permitted Washington and Beijing to involve its country in direct intervention against neighboring Afghanistan. It is noteworthy that despite their constant talk about the "threat to Pakistan from the north" its leaders are ignoring the peace initiatives of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan [DRA] Government, its readiness to solve existing problems by means of talks and its intention to maintain relations of peace and friendship with Pakistan. The Pakistan ruling elite continues to interfere in the internal affairs of people's Afghanistan and is fueling tension in the region.

But are the Pakistan leadership's current foreign policy aims confined to the "Afghan sphere"? Recently informed circles abroad have been paying increasing attention to another aspect of the anti-Afghan activity of Islamabad, which is taking advantage of the prevailing situation, securing modern weapons and assiduously developing ties with China. The question arises: What is this being done for? It is purely and simply in order to send its well-trained and well-armed regular army to Afghanistan. Would it not be more correct to assume that, by strengthening, arming and giving every assistance to Afghan counterrevolution, Islamabad is trying to use its growing army and the close alliance with China mainly for revanchist actions against India?

The Indian leaders and public recall the experience of the past when ultimately Pakistan turned the weapons it had obtained against India. "Now," Prime Minister Indira Gandhi stressed in an interview, "the same thing will happen." That these fears are realistic is confirmed by the Pakistani leaders' stubborn reluctance to conclude a nonaggression treaty with India. The nature of the proposed military deliveries to Pakistan is also very indicative. The Washington POST wrote in February of the "possibility of selling Pakistan long-range A-7 fighters suitable for use against India." Finally, in addition to the weapons deliveries there is the possible U.S. "military presence" in Pakistan!

As is known, after the 1972 Simla conference between the Indian and Pakistani leaders a process, fruitful for both countries, of normalizing mutual relations began to gather momentum. Even now India states its desire to improve and expand relations with Pakistan on the basis of the Simla agreement, on the basis of the principle of respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity and noninterference in one another's affairs. [paragraph continues]

However, it is perfectly obvious that the intensive arming of Pakistan by the United States, China and Saudi Arabia is dealing a severe blow to the process of normalization of Pakistani-Indian relations and is inciting the Pakistani military leaders, as in the past, to solve disputes not by peaceful means, without outside interference, but from a position of strength, with the help of foreign "patrons."

It is not all that long since Pakistan became involved in the aggressive American-Chinese plans. In the view of foreign commentators, however, the Pakistan leadership's stance on the question of relations with India has become tougher.

Pakistan's increasingly active participation in China's subversive actions against the Indian people is causing great anxiety in India. Centers are being set up on Pakistani territory and in the Pakistani-controlled part of Kashmir where Chinese military instructors are training saboteurs to be sent into the territory of neighboring countries. The Indian press and public associate the current activation of subversive forces in northeastern parts of India with the intensification of the activity of American, Chinese and Pakistani special services and the growing coordination of this activity.

The Chinese-built Kharakhoram highway linking Pakistan with China gave Beijing access to deep within the South Asian Subcontinent. In fact, this highway gives access to Pakistan's main highway which stretches from Peshawar, on the Afghan border, to Karachi, a port on the shores of the Arabian Sea. This fact alone shows who, in fact, is yearning for "the warm waters of the Indian Ocean." There was particular indignation in India at the fact that a considerable part of this highway runs through territory which is still the subject of dispute between India and Pakistan. Moreover, the primary purpose of the Kharakhoram highway is military.

Thus, in their endeavor to change the course of events in this vast and densely populated region in the direction they require, the United States and China are not averse to creating explosive hotbeds. An alliance is currently being knocked together here, comprising states hostile toward India, states having ambitious claims on it (remember that China still has 36,000 square km of Indian territory and is claiming even more). They are attempting to bring into this alliance other states which still have some unresolved questions in their relations with India. In the south the growing U.S. military presence in the Indian Ocean, the system of bases that has been established and is being developed, centered on Diego Garcia Island, is posing a growing threat. In this situation I. Gandhi's recent anxious statement that "danger is approaching the Indian border" is entirely justified.

The course taken by Pakistan's military administration is giving rise to justified fears in Pakistan itself. Citing past experience, the country's public regards it as illusory to bank on seizing an "opportune moment" and rectifying an extremely serious economic situation at the new-found benefactors' expense and on the possibility of building relations with India from a position of strength. The progressive press stresses that the United States and China are pursuing their own interests and are not in the least concerned about Pakistan, which is necessary to the pursuit of their aggressive, expansionist policy in this region. But the Islamabad rulers are not heeding the sober voices and wise counsel.

It should be remembered that in the past Pakistan has been through a similar situation. American and Chinese military "aid" intensified the militarist propensities of the then military rulers. Spurred on by Washington and Beijing, the Pakistani dictators attempted to solve disputes with neighboring countries by military means and entered into military conflicts with India. But they neither won glory on the battlefield nor achieved their aims. They did, however, cause considerable displeasure in their own country by their senseless policy. Thus, history indicates that the course toward intensifying tension in relations with neighboring countries and toward confrontation and military conflicts with them is fraught with the most lamentable consequences for its initiators.

PRAVDA VIEWS ASSAM 'POLITICAL CRISIS,' DESTABILIZATION PLAN

LD201541 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 19 Mar 80 p 5 LD

[Correspondent V. Shurygin report: "The 'Brahmaputra Plan'"]

[Text] Delhi, 18 March--The so-called Brahmaputra plan elaborated by U.S. intelligence services and adopted by Beijing is aimed at creating an independent state in northeastern India on the territory east of the Brahmaputra River, the PATRIOT newspaper reports. It is an integral part of imperialist and Maoist strategy for destabilizing the situation in northeastern India.

The question arises because of the political crisis in the State of Assam, where for about 6 months now a campaign has been going on--led by local nationalist organizations--against so-called "foreigners"--persons of non-Assamese origin who have emigrated here at various times from Bangladesh and Nepal. Sometimes those who have come from other Indian states are also categorized as "foreigners."

Indira Gandhi's government is adopting energetic measures to settle the problem which has arisen. Zail Singh, Indian minister of home affairs, recently visited Assam. In Delhi the prime minister had a meeting with leaders of Assamese organizations heading the campaign. As a result the tension has lessened to some extent in Assam, although it has not yet been possible to finalize a formula for resolving existing problems. The Communist Party of India and other leftwing parties are also making efforts to normalize the situation in Assam.

BRIEFS

USSR-BANGLADESH TRADE PROTOCOL--A protocol on mutual deliveries of goods as well as other documents regulating the 1980 trade relations between the Soviet Union and Bangladesh have been signed in Moscow. A further growth in trade is envisaged. [Text] [Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 2004 GMT 10 Mar 80 LD]

INDONESIA RELUCTANT TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS WITH CHINA

LD201501 Moscow TASS in English 1332 GMT 20 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 20, TASS--The TASS political commentator, Sergey Kulik, writes: Speeches of a number of distinguished political leaders of Indonesia and articles of Jakarta's newspapers of late have more than once touched upon the question of the prospect of the resumption of diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China. Summing up pronouncements by Indonesians, the conclusion can be drawn that their opinion is: Through normalization of the relations between the two neighbouring countries can but be welcomed in principle, bearing in mind Beijing's present policy, Indonesia should mark time in its own interests.

Mochtar Kusumaatmaja, Indonesia's foreign minister, for instance, advocating in principle the establishment of relations with the People's Republic of China, declared at the same time that "bearing in mind Beijing's role in Southeast Asia it was more expedient not to take this step" at the present moment.

R. Iskandar, member of the Parliamentary Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security Committee, said: "The time has not yet come for the establishment of diplomatic relations between Indonesia and the People's Republic of China. Through normalisation of relations Beijing seeks to draw Indonesia into the struggle against the Soviet Union. Jakarta, however, is not going to pursue an antiSoviet line." A similar opinion was also voiced by his colleague from the parliamentary Moslem group, I. Rushadi. "Indonesia,"--we warned, "must be vigilant, particularly taking into consideration the problem of the ethnic Chinese" in Southeast Asia.

After Huang Hua's recent visit to a number of ASEAN countries there has been a strong intensification of the motivated misgiving of Indonesia over the real purpose which make Beijing press for a resumption of relations with Jakarta. It will be recalled that this organization, set up in August 1967 at the height of the Cultural Revolution in the People's Republic of China, was to a certain extent the response of Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore to the Beijing leaders' attempt to overthrow the governments of those countries and to impose Maoism upon them, using the ethnic Chinese as their "fifth column."

Jakarta newspapers regularly report arrests of persons of Chinese nationality, who illegally infiltrated into various regions of the archipelago, establish contacts with their agents engaged in subversive activities. Mochtar Kusumaatmaja said that China now evidently would like to use ASEAN, to convert the organization into a tool of its policy in Southeast Asia.

In doing so, the Indonesian newspaper MERDEKA points out, the Beijing leadership "not concealing its hegemonistic plans to hold a dominating position in Southeast Asia," closely coordinates its policy in that region with Washington. Beijing's policy vis-a-vis Indonesia and other Southeast Asian countries shows the Beijing essentially pursues the same course as the imperialist powers and is an active accomplice of imperialism in the struggle against the independence and social progress of the peoples of those countries.

GROMYKO ENDS TALKS WITH CSSR FOREIGN MINISTER

LD201426 Moscow TASS in English 1412 GMT 20 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 20, TASS--Talks ended in Moscow today between Andrey Gromyko, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, minister of foreign affairs of the USSR, and Bohuslav Chnoupek, member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, minister of foreign affairs of Czechoslovakia. When exchanging views on a number of topical international problems they paid the main attention to questions connected with ensuring the continuation and consolidation of the process of relaxation of international tensions, with the limitation of the arms race, disarmament and European security. They also discussed the situation in the Near and Middle East, in South and Southeast Asia and in the Far East. The talks passed in an atmosphere of mutual understanding and complete identity of views on all questions under discussion. A joint communique was adopted.

REPORT ON VISIT BY HUNGARIAN FOREIGN MINISTER

LD201339 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 19 Mar 80 p 4 LD

[Unattributed report "On the Visit to the USSR of F. Puja, member of the MSZMP Central Committee and Hungarian Foreign Minister"]

[Text] Frigyes Puja, member of the MSZMP Central Committee and Hungarian foreign minister, was in the Soviet Union on a visit 17-18 March 1980 at the invitation of the Soviet Government.

During the talks A.A. Gromyko, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR foreign minister, and F. Puja examined questions of the state and further development of Soviet-Hungarian relations, and also key problems of the present international situation which are directly associated with tasks of stepping up the joint struggle for the strengthening of peace, detente, the ending of the arms race, disarmament and cooperation among peoples. The talks, which took place in a friendly atmosphere, again confirmed the complete unity of views on all the questions discussed.

The sides stressed the special role of meetings between L.I. Brezhnev and J. Kadar for strengthening the fraternal alliance and collaboration between the CPSU and the MSZMP and between the USSR and Hungary. Great significance for coordinating activity in the international arena and further deepening friendship and cooperation between the two countries' peoples was attached to the visit of a Soviet party and government delegation headed by L.I. Brezhnev to Hungary in 1979.

It was noted with great satisfaction that Soviet-Hungarian relations, based on the principles of Marxism-Leninism and socialist internationalism, are developing successfully in accordance with the treaty between the USSR and Hungary on friendship, cooperation and mutual assistance and are characterized by complete mutual understanding and the deepening of broad cooperation in all spheres.

The Hungarian foreign minister gave a high assessment of efforts being made by the Soviet Union in the interests of insuring peace, international security and social progress in accordance with the peace program formulated at the 24th and 25th CPSU congresses.

The sides reasserted the Soviet Union's and Hungary's desire to continue to strengthen the socialist community's international unity and cohesion and to do everything to help improve and increase the efficiency of cooperation within the framework of the fraternal socialist countries' collective organizations. [paragraph continues]

In this connection particular emphasis was placed on the significance of the Warsaw Pact organization, which for a quarter of a century has been reliably insuring a policy of peace and resistance to aggressive forces.

Discussing international questions, the ministers stressed that the present complication of the world situation is the direct result of the course adopted by imperialist circles in the United States and other NATO countries of whipping up the arms race, provoking conflict situations and interfering in other countries' internal affairs. This course, a principled assessment of which was given in L.I. Brezhnev's 22 February speech, is contrary to the interests of the relaxation of international tension and constitutes a threat to peace and the security of all states and peoples.

The decision adopted by NATO on the production of new types of American medium-range nuclear-missile weapons and their deployment in certain West European countries--a decision calculated to wreck the established equilibrium of forces and obtain military superiority over the socialist community countries--is contrary to the aims and meaning of the detente policy. If the NATO decision on the production of new American missiles and their deployment in West Europe is revoked, or at least if an official decision to suspend its implementation is adopted, then possibilities could open up for talks on questions relating to medium-range nuclear-missile weapons.

Both sides declared the determination of the Soviet Union and Hungary in close collaboration with the other fraternal socialist countries to continue to implement a consistent policy of peace and friendship between peoples. It was stressed that in present conditions even greater activeness and persistence are required on the part of all peace-loving forces in the struggle to prevent a new spiral of the arms race, embark on the path of real disarmament and defend and augment the fruits of detente, obtained at the cost of protracted efforts by many countries.

The ministers reasserted their countries' determination to promote the implementation of the broad program of measures put forward by the Warsaw Pact states for reducing military confrontation, further strengthening security and consolidating trust on the European Continent. They stressed particularly that these aims would be promoted by the convening of a political-level conference on military detente and disarmament in Europe. The sides deem urgent more intensive consultations in this connection.

Guided by the desire to promote the implementation of the principles and accords embodied in the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, the sides advocated thorough preparations for the meeting to be held in Madrid this fall of representatives of the countries which took part in the all-European conference and advocated that it be held in a constructive spirit.

The Soviet Union and Hungary declare their complete solidarity with the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan in its struggle to defend the gains of the April Revolution and for its national independence and sovereignty. They demand a speedy and complete end to the continuing aggressive actions from outside against independent, revolutionary Afghanistan and to all forms of interference by imperialist and reactionary forces in its internal affairs.

The ministers declared the fraternal solidarity of the Soviet Union and Hungary with the policy of Vietnam, Laos and Kampuchea--a policy aimed at developing relations of good neighborliness and cooperation between Southeast Asian countries and at strengthening peace and security in the region. The need was stressed for an energetic rebuff for Beijing's hegemonist, expansionist course, which constitutes a serious threat to peace and the people's security. The Soviet Union and Hungary welcome the victory of Zimbabwe patriotic forces at the recent general parliamentary elections, which have created the conditions for the emergence of a new independent state in Africa.

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The sides noted the usefulness of regular reciprocal meetings and consultations, expressing the intention of continuing them in future.

On behalf of the Hungarian Government F. Puja invited A.A. Gromyko to visit Hungary on an official friendly visit; the invitation was accepted with thanks.

REPORT ON VISIT BY YUGOSLAV TU DELEGATION

LD201835 Moscow TRUD in Russian 18 Mar 80 p 3 LD

[Unattributed Report "On the Friendly Visit to the USSR by a Delegation of the Yugoslav Trade Union Council"]

[Text] From 13-16 March 1980 a delegation of the Central Council of the Confederation of Trade Unions of Yugoslavia [CTUY], headed by M. Spiljak, president of the CTUY Central Council, was in the Soviet Union on a friendly visit at the invitation of the AUCCTU. Talks took place between the CTUY Central Council delegation and an AUCCTU delegation headed by AUCCTU Chairman A.I. Shibayev. The talks took place in an atmosphere of mutual respect and friendship.

The delegation members were familiarized with the life and labor of Soviet workers and employees and their successes in building the material and technical base of communism and in the cause of implementing the decisions of the 25th CPSU Congress and the socio-economic program adopted by it. The guests from Yugoslavia visited the Moscow Lenin Komsomol motor vehicle factory, familiarized themselves with Olympic installations in Moscow and had a meeting with the capital's trade union aktiv. Everywhere they were given a warm welcome.

The delegation laid wreaths at the V.I. Lenin Mausoleum and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier by the Kremlin Wall.

The sides exchanged information on the main avenues of the activity of Soviet and Yugoslav trade unions at the present stage and the achievements of the peoples of the USSR and Yugoslavia in building socialism and communism. The delegations noted with satisfaction the recent galvanization of bilateral trade union contacts and approved a plan for links and cooperation between the trade unions of the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia for 1980.

At the talks there was an exchange of opinions on questions of mutual interest relating to the international trade union movement and in particular in relation to the world trade union conference on problems of development which is to take place from 22-25 April this year in Belgrade. It was agreed that the AUCCTU and the CTUY Central Council will continue to exchange information on their activity and experience in the interests of successfully solving the tasks of building socialism and communism, consolidating peace and relaxing international tension, developing orientations and increasing solidarity with the struggle of working people of capitalist and developing countries for a better life and social progress.

The AUCCTU and the CTUY Central Council expressed the conviction that the visit to the Soviet Union by the CTUY Central Council delegation and the talks conducted during it will serve the further development of Soviet-Yugoslav trade union ties and will constitute a joint contribution to the cause of strengthening the traditional fraternal friendship between the peoples of the two countries.

The CTUY Central Council delegation left the Soviet Union 16 March. The delegation was seen off at the airport by A.I. Shibayev, AUCCTU chairman; K.Yu. Matskyavichyus, AUCCTU secretary; and V.Ye. Sergeyev, chief of the AUCCTU section for relations with trade unions in socialist countries. The send off party included M. Orlandic, Yugoslav ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the USSR.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA SCORES FRG MILITARY POLICY

LD210919 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 15 Mar 80 p 3 LD

[Col A. Markov article: "Bonn's Zigzags"]

[Text] This year spring has brought many unpleasant surprises to West Germany's inhabitants. Brief thaws alternate with prolonged cold spells, heavy snowfalls and icy ground. Bonn's political weather is similar. Rare positive statements by sober-minded people are stifled outright by bellicose speeches about the need for a "tougher line" toward the Soviet Union, a bigger contribution to "the West's defense" and so forth. Figures of various ranks and from different political spectrums are rushing to voice their opinion on the international situation and to give recommendations as to where to lead the country next.

The politicians in the ruling coalition differ from opposition figures only in that they pay lip service to the benefit of detente and advocate it verbally, but in fact fight for the need to follow Washington along the path of cold war, brandishing nuclear Tomahawks. In an interview with the Sudwestfunk radio station FRG Foreign Minister H.D. Genscher, for instance, warned Europeans against continuing their "philosophizings over Europe's so-called interests and special role. On the contrary, it is necessary to take into consideration the identical interests we share with the United States."

The British newspaper THE FINANCIAL TIMES recently discovered a new concept in West Germany--"division of labor within NATO." In the newspaper's opinion it means that the NATO members should assume tasks in the bloc in accordance with their position, traditions and abilities. The reputable British newspaper is obviously in error in calling this a new concept. For a long time now many FRG politicians and military figures have been seeking for their country and its armed forces positions in the bloc which are in their view worthy of the great contribution which the FRG is making to NATO's military efforts.

Was the erstwhile talk of an "economic giant and political dwarf," which meant that the FRG's place in resolving problems of world politics and its military weight should accord with its economic power, not a form of this same concept? Was it not this desire which spurred all FRG governments to adopt a leading stand in the bloc by creating powerful armed forces equipped with the most modern weapons?

As we can see, these designs are being realized today. The Bundeswehr has become the most powerful army in NATO after the U.S. Army. The FRG's influence on decisionmaking in the bloc and on policy in West Europe has increased considerably. FRG representatives hold important key posts in the NATO political and military apparatus.

However, this still does not satisfy the ambitious designs of the country's leading circles. Incited by the rightwing opposition, they are seeking more. The main thing they are seeking is access to nuclear missile weapons or at any rate the erstaz status of a nuclear power. This is now being done under the flag of establishing equality in the bloc. Speaking in Floen recently, FRG Defense Minister H. Apel stated that the alliance could not consist of members qualitatively different from each other. True, this argument is not new either. It was used formerly under Adenauer.

It should be noted that in seeking "equal rights" in the bloc the FRG is at the same time seeking to appear in the eyes of its transatlantic partner to be the most zealous supporter of Atlanticism and the policy pursued by the U.S. administration headed by Carter.

All this is giving rise to justified doubts among the international public as to the FRG Government's desire actually to resolve the most important problems of the present day--like the limitation of the arms race, military detente in Europe and the development of all-round cooperation.

Let us recall a few facts in this connection.

Among NATO members the FRG was perhaps alone in immediately approving U.S. plans to deploy neutron weapons in West Europe. Bonn readily responds to every demand from across the ocean for an increase in military appropriations. It initially supported most vigorously the U.S. proposal and then the NATO Council decision to deploy in some West European countries the new U.S. medium-range nuclear missile weapons which alter the established equilibrium of forces in Europe.

It is with the blessing of the FRG ruling circles that the buildup of the U.S. military presence and the creation of new bases, airfields and military equipment and weapons depots are taking place. At the same time active practical implementation of the program to reequip the Bundeswehr with sophisticated types of weapons and military equipment is underway.

To the sly accompaniment of ridiculous fabrications about "the Soviet military threat" and "Soviet superweapons" Bonn is gaining access to sophisticated U.S. military technology and developing its own powerful forge for modern weapons, consigning to oblivion the restrictions once imposed on West Germany in the military sphere and enjoying the connivance of the United States and its other partners in the bloc.

In actual fact who among the present leading West European politicians now recalls these restrictions? In these countries' parliaments solemn promises were once heard that German militarism would never be resurrected, that the 1954 Paris agreements set definite limits on West Germany's armament. But, alas, these were just words. Subsequent development has shown that the restrictions, if they existed at all, did so only on paper, and, when the FRG demanded, were easily rescinded.

The entire present structure of military building in the FRG fails to accord with the Paris agreements. It was proposed that all the country's armed forces should join NATO and thus be under international control. In actual fact the FRG created a special type of armed forces--the "territorial army"--which have remained under national command. It was proposed that the country would have no general staff or other major staffs. Essentially they have been created within the framework of the Defense Ministry structure. Bans on the building of large warships and submarines have been bypassed or rescinded. The bans on providing the West German Army with missiles and other sophisticated weapons have been forgotten.

Back on 25 March 1958 the Bundestag gave the FRG Government full powers to equip the armed forces with nuclear missiles. This decision was a direct violation of both the Potsdam and the Paris agreements banning West Germany from possessing or producing weapons of mass destruction. Soon the Bundeswehr ranked second in the bloc after the United States in terms of numbers of ground forces nuclear warhead delivery vehicles.

Artillery, missiles and aircraft together with nuclear warhead depots are concentrated mainly along the borders with the GDR and CSSR. In terms of the combat potential of nuclear weapon carriers the Bundeswehr has real opportunities for a surprise attack on its Eastern neighbors and for hitting targets on the Oder-Neisse frontier and further east, that is, right into GDR territory, a large part of the CSSR and western regions of Poland. [paragraph continues]

All this was done almost 20 years before the ballyhoo about the Soviet medium-range missiles allegedly now threatening Western Europe. Yet now Pershing and Tomahawks targeted against western regions of the USSR are being added to this arsenal.

Influential forces in Bonn are seeking to use the current noisy propaganda campaign launched by Washington and NATO over the nonexistent Soviet threat to strengthen the FRG's military and political positions in NATO even further. This is served in particular by the further buildup of armaments by the Bundeswehr. This year DM9 billion will be spent on acquiring sophisticated military equipment and ammunition in the FRG--7 percent more than last year.

In the opinion of observers, "the process of the total updating" of the Bundeswehr's military equipment is aimed to a considerable degree at altering still further in the FRG's favor the correlation of forces existing in the military sphere between the FRG and other West European NATO members, insuring dominant positions for it in this bloc. This in turn creates the necessary conditions for exerting pressure "when necessary" on the other European countries belonging to NATO in the interests of the FRG's policy. H. Apel's recent statement in an interview with the newspaper GENERAL ANZEIGER to the effect that in a few years the FRG will have "the most modern army" by comparison with all its bloc partners has attracted attention in this connection. In another interview he announced that in the next few years about DM50 billion will be spent on rearming the Bundeswehr.

Recent facts attest to the desire of certain circles in the FRG to lead the Bundeswehr beyond the framework of the NATO sphere. Those responsible for military policy in the FRG are admitting the possibility that, within the framework of this same concept of "division of labor" in the bloc, the Bundeswehr may assume certain functions of the U.S. Armed Forces in Europe while the Bundesmarine will do the same in the Atlantic. FRG Defense Minister H. Apel, speaking in Oberursel, stated: "It is possible that in the future, as a result of geostrategic changes, the FRG together with other states will have to assume additional naval functions in the North Sea and the Atlantic."

For a number of years now the FRG has been giving military aid to Turkey. This aid is now being increased. There is talk of aid to Pakistan, a country from whose territory war is being waged against neighboring Afghanistan. Although this aid is declared to be humanitarian, it is not known what goals it will serve. There is a risk that the FRG will be dragged into the region's conflicts.

FRG Chancellor H. Schmidt visited Washington recently. Definite significance was attached to this visit. It was expected to specify the FRG's attitude toward the U.S. administration's present course. The international public hoped that the chancellor would adopt more independent positions, as he has frequently done before. However, the joint statement published at the end of the meeting showed that on the main issues the FRG chancellor adopted the view of his senior partner. It looks as though H. Schmidt is sliding increasingly toward a position of support for the Carter administration's arguments aimed at changing the correlation of forces in the world, attaining military superiority for the West and achieving active FRG participation in implementing measures stemming from arguments of this sort not only in Europe but also beyond the "NATO zone of operation."

The position taken by the FRG Government is in fact dragging Europe into a new round of the arms race which could render hopeless any talks on military detente on the Continent. This course cannot fail to alarm the public of the European countries in whose memory recollections of the past war unleashed by German imperialism are still fresh. It cannot fail to draw attention to the fact that the most active role in implementing NATO's sinister plans is allocated to those whose armies mounted aggression against many European countries and sowed death and destruction throughout the Continent.

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USSR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
WESTERN EUROPE

Observing the fluctuations of the spring weather, people say it is the elements. The fluctuations in Bonn's policy are not elemental. They are the conscious actions of those FRG circles who, latching on to Washington's "hard line," are dreaming of a dominant role in Western Europe and possibly beyond and of getting the keys to nuclear weapons for the Bundeswehr. These circles obviously forget the lessons of history. Fluctuations in policy have never yet done anyone any good.

Thanks to the firm, consistent foreign policy course of the Soviet Union and the other socialist community countries and the energetic actions of the peace-loving forces, Europe has lived without war for almost 35 years now. Nevertheless the danger of the actions of the forces of militarism must be considered. History teaches us that we must struggle against war before it has yet begun. Speaking of our country's position under present-day conditions, Comrade L.I. Brezhnev stressed that we are in favor of restraint, in favor of a balanced approach, but that we are also in favor of firm resistance to aggression. The Soviet Union upheld the same position in the period when the threat of World War II was growing. We continue to hold this position today.

USSR PROTESTS 'ANTI-SOVIET CAMPAIGN' IN SWITZERLAND

DW201848 Zurich NEUE ZUERCHER ZEITUNG in German 20 Mar 80 p 21 DW

[Unattributed report: "Conceived as a 'Verbal' Statement"]

[Text] Bern, 18 March (SDA)--"It was not my intention to submit a note but rather to make a verbal statement," Soviet Ambassador Nikolay Obertyshev told SDA on Tuesday in connection with the Soviet protest lodged at the confederation Department of Foreign Affairs (EDA). He stated at the beginning of the talk with Hansjoerg Renk, the EDA press chief, that he was making a verbal statement. Obertyshev did not elaborate on the reasons for the protest. They were, he said, not only connected with a report stating that more than 200 Soviet agents are working in Switzerland at present; one only had to skim through the newspapers to find examples of the anti-Soviet campaign.

Text of the Verbal Note

The statement of the USSR Embassy to Switzerland which was turned over to the [SDA] news agency by a TASS correspondent on Monday, reads in part:

"The Embassy wants to call the attention of the EDA press section to the anti-Soviet campaign which the Swiss mass media are systematically conducting. This campaign, which contradicts the spirit and principles of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, has been joined by the press, television and radio, individual members of Parliament and even official Swiss representatives.

"This campaign is aimed at distorting the peace-loving policy of the Soviet state and at creating mistrust and hostile behavior toward Soviet institutions and citizens in Switzerland. The insinuations and inventions regarding the policy of the Soviet Union and the activities of Soviet institutions and citizens in Switzerland are dictated by the efforts of certain quarters to set up obstacles on the road toward developing Soviet-Swiss relations.

"The embassy takes the occasion to state that all Soviet institutions and their staff members in their activities strictly adhere to generally accepted international norms and that all their activities are aimed at developing friendly relations between the Soviet Union and Switzerland.

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USSR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
WESTERN EUROPE

"In making this statement the embassy expects the EDA to take measures to suspend hostile propaganda against the Soviet Union in Switzerland."

U.S. PLANS FOR TURKEY CONTRADICT ITS NATIONAL INTERESTS

LD201317 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 15 Mar 80 p 4 LD

[Correspondent A. Filippov report: "Turbulent Istanbul"]

[Excerpt] Istanbul, March--Istanbul's old-timers cannot recall seeing weather as capricious as this year's in a long time. In the morning there is bright spring sunshine, giving no sign of change. But suddenly the horizon darkens and heavy rain descends on the city, accompanied by gusts of cold westerly [as published] wind. Water trickles into unheated basements and the wind destroys the decrepit dwellings on the outskirts, where the poor people live. When a dense fog blankets Istanbul, ship and ferry traffic on international waterway which is the Bosphorus comes to a halt. The famous bridge over the strait is closed to cars, cutting off communication between the city's European and Asian sections.

But the pitch of political life does not abate even on days when the weather is bad.

The Turkish Peace Association, which I am on my way to visit, occupies three small rooms on the fifth floor of a building on the busy Istiklal Avenue.

Shivering slightly from the cold, Enis Coskun, general secretary of the Turkish Peace Association, rises to greet me. He describes the large amount of work the society does. The most important task is the mobilization of the population to struggle against the NATO ringleaders' decision to deploy new types of U.S. nuclear missile weapons on the territory of a number of states belonging to the bloc. Over 60 different organizations are taking part in it, including the Labor Party, the Socialist Workers' Party, and the Confederation of Revolutionary Workers' Trade Unions, expressing the interests of broad strata of the working class and progressive intelligentsia.

This struggle, E. Coskun notes, acquires special significance now that the United States is trying by every means to involve Turkey in the implementation of its aggressive plans in the countries of the eastern Mediterranean and Near and Middle East.

There is no doubt that the United States, since the fall of the monarchy in Iran and the loss of its own position there, has conceived the idea of turning Turkey into its gendarme in this part of the world. But Turkey must not be an instrument of U.S. aggression. That contradicts its fundamental national interests.

"It must be said frankly," our interlocutor concludes, "that we are now experiencing unprecedented economic difficulties, rising prices and raging inflation, a fuel shortage and unemployment which is growing from day to day. These are the fruits of the country's prolonged and senseless orientation on the West and membership of NATO."

When you drive through the city, army patrols and armored vehicles are in evidence on the squares and street intersections. Istanbul is among the 20 of the country's 67 provinces where emergency martial law has been introduced in order, the authorities state, to end the campaign of terror and violence mounted by extreme rightwing groupings and Maoists. In Istanbul alone over 800 people have been killed and 4,000 wounded in the past year.

The Istanbul authorities, to judge by newspaper reports, are helpless when they have to halt the actions of terrorists belonging to rightwing forces, particularly the paramilitary "commandos" organization, which serves the Nationalist Action Party [Partiya Natsionalisticheskogo Dvizheniya].

COMMENTARY ON FALL OF COSSIGA GOVERNMENT IN ITALY

Malyshev Commentary

LD201634 Moscow TASS in English 1608 GMT 20 Mar 80 LD

[Vladimir Malyshev commentary: "41st Government Crisis in Italy"]

[Text] Moscow, March 20, TASS--A new, the 41st government crisis since the overthrow of the fascist dictatorship has erupted in Italy. But the word "erupted" is not quite correct to describe what has happened. Talk that the cabinet could resign at any moment began long ago, in fact almost immediately after its formation in August of last year, since the cabinet did not have a majority in Parliament. Headed by the Christian Democrat Francesco Cossiga, the government stayed in power only thanks to the neutral stand taken by the Socialist and Republican parties. The moment the Socialists decided to join the opposition, the brittle edifice of the government collapsed like a house of cards. The actions of the Socialist Party were only a pretext for the cabinet's resignation. The causes of the "government leap-frogging" in Italy are different. The prime cause is that the Christian Democratic Party, which has been having a monopoly on power in the country for the past 30 years, is incapable of solving the complex problems facing Italy.

A drawn out economic crisis continues in Italy, prices are soaring and the army of unemployed numbers two million. The authorities are proving incapable of putting an end to the terrorist actions of neofascists and leftist extremists. The Christian Democrats are trying to "cure" these chronic ailments of Italy by way of an endless chain of Cabinet changes, by alternately drawing other bourgeois parties and socialists into the administration of the state. Judging by press reports now, too, they are hoping to find a way out of the impasse by creating a government with the participation of Socialists. It is known, however, that such "left of centre" coalitions have been created in the past but without success. The Christian Democrats stubbornly reject any form of cooperation within the government with Italy's second biggest political party--the Communist Party. And they stated this also at the recent congress of the Christian Democratic Party. As to the left-wing forces they hold that it is possible to overcome the crisis only by creating a government of national unity with the participation of all democratic parties, including the Italian Communist Party.

It is clear that rude and arrogant interference by the United States in the affairs of its Atlantic bloc partner is one of the main obstacles on the way to achieving political stability in Italy and creating a government that would accord with the country's needs. The "warnings" and "advice" by Washington to the Italians on how they should or should not form a government are continuing for many years already and are of a truly scandalous nature. Shortly before the present crisis, the U.S. Ambassador in Rome Richard Gardner gave an interview to the weekly GENTE and again offered a piece of "advice" that looked more like a threat. "We are against the participation of communist parties in the governments of countries which are our allies", the ambassador stated.

It is difficult to say how the government crisis in Italy will be resolved this time. What is clear, however, is that if old recipes are used in forming the government then it is unlikely that the major national problems will be solved and a way out of the present political impasse found.

Gratsianov Commentary

LD202348 Moscow in Italian to Italy 1730 GMT 20 Mar 80 LD

[Nikolay Gratsianov commentary]

[Text] The resignation of the cabinet of the Christian Democrat Francesco Cossiga became inevitable after the refusal of the Socialists and Republicans to support him in Parliament. It was only thanks to this support that the government, which was not based on a parliamentary majority, could remain in office for more than 7 months. The government's weakness was also compounded by its policy, which did not accord with the country's real needs and proved incapable of solving the problems facing Italy.

Toward the beginning of the year, the country's economic and financial situation deteriorated. The inflation index rose above the average for the European states and today stands at 20 percent. The price index has also gone up; the number out of work amounts to 2 million; terrorism rages; big financial scandals, in which some politicians were involved, also contributed to the government crisis.

In the sphere of foreign policy, notes the commentator Nikolay Gratsianov, the Cossiga government was responsible for the unpopular decision to back plans for the production of new American medium-range missiles and their deployment on Italian territory. This step made Italy a direct accessory to a new round in the nuclear missile arms race, which poses the greatest danger for peace in Europe.

But the principal cause of the Italian crisis, and not just the present one, lies in the obstinate reluctance of the Christian Democrats to broaden the area of government cooperation by including the other important forces of Italian society, above all the Communist Party. The communists, the second biggest party in Parliament and the party with the greatest influence among working people, is not being admitted to the government of the country. Indeed, the Christian Democrats refuse to collaborate with communists even in local government. The Christian Democrats seek at all costs to preserve their monopoly of power, which they have had throughout the post-war period, while apportioning a secondary role to the other parties. A strong influence on this position is also exerted by foreign forces, above all the United States. The American administration, either at the highest level or using Gardner--its ambassador in Rome--as a mouthpiece, makes it clear it will not permit the entry of communists into the government.

Nevertheless, only the formation of a government of national solidarity, including the Communist Party, would be capable of taking Italy out of the deep crisis. The communists propose that the program of such a government should be based on the principles of economic recovery and reform different from the old method of administration, on defense of the democratic system and participation in international affairs in the interests of national and European security.

SWEDISH FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL VISITS MOSCOW

LD201505 Moscow TASS in English 1443 GMT 20 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 20, TASS--L. Ekerberg, head of the Political Department of the Foreign Ministry of Sweden, stayed in Moscow from March 17 to 20 for a regular exchange of opinions between the foreign ministries of the USSR and Sweden. He held talks at the Soviet Foreign Ministry on questions of mutual interest.

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U S S R I N T E R N A T I O N A L A F F A I R S
M I D D L E E A S T & N O R T H A F R I C A

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KHOMAYNI STRESSES IMPORTANCE OF ELECTIONS IN NEW YEAR'S ADDRESS

LD201545 Moscow TASS in English 1524 GMT 20 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Tehran, March 20, TASS--On the occasion of the Iranian new year which begins on March 21, Ayatollah Khomeyni made a radio address to the people. He urged the Iranians to strengthen national unity and stressed the importance of the present parliamentary elections in Iran. He said that parliament would become "the central organ of power by the people" to which all other organs would be answerable. He warned again the Iranians that internecine strife and squaring of accounts only played into the hands of the enemies of the revolution who have not laid down arms and continue plotting against the new regime. Even if they bombard Tehran and send tanks to its streets, Khomeyni said, there will be no other way for us left but to defend ourselves, and this struggle will eventually carry us to victory. In conclusion the leader of the Iranian revolution expressed confidence that every Iranian would devote all his energies to building a new society in Iran.

Beirut, March 20, TASS--Iran will carry forward its struggle against American imperialism until the United States abandons its colonialist policy toward other countries, including Muslim states, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi Rafsanjani, member of the Islamic Revolutionary Council of Iran, said in an interview with the weekly FILASTIN ATH-THAWRA. The United States, he stressed, is constantly interfering in the internal affairs of other countries and plunders the national wealth of other peoples. Many Muslim countries actually fell victim to aggression by the United States, therefore the struggle against American imperialism is our sacred task.

Hashemi Rafsanjani sharply criticized Israel's aggressive policy and said that the Iranian people did not consider the victory of its revolution a final one as long as Israeli troops continued to occupy Arab territories.

PRAVDA CITES BANI-SADR ON HOSTAGES, NOTES ARREST OF 'CIA AGENT'

LD201419 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 19 Mar 80 p 5 LD

[TASS report: "On Events in Iran"]

[Text] Tehran, 18 March--The counting of votes in the first round of the elections to the country's parliament continues in Iran. The results of the voting in 79 of the 270 electoral districts are already known. Among those elected to parliament are 34 representatives of the Islamic Republican Party and 16 representatives of President Bani-Sadr's group.

In 75 districts no one candidate received sufficient votes. The second round of the elections will be held in those districts in early April. In the other 116 electoral districts counting is still going on or voting has been postponed until later.

The Americans seized by Iranian students in the U.S. Embassy will be speedily released if the United States satisfies the Iranian people's legitimate demand for the extradition of the former shah and the return of the riches he plundered, Iranian President A. Bani-Sadr stated in an interview on Algerian radio and television. Iran, he said, is prepared to normalize relations with the United States on the principles of equality and noninterference in each other's internal affairs, although as yet the U.S. Government has ignored the Iranian people's demands and the Iranian side's proposals.

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In Tehran the country's security organs have arrested Victoria Bassiri, deputy chief of the Iranian Foreign Ministry visa department. She has been accused of espionage for the United States. The PARS agency reports that the spy maintained contact with Doherty, an employee of the American Embassy in Tehran, who is now among the seized American "diplomats" and in reality is a CIA agent.

IRANIAN PEACE COUNCIL MEMBER ATTACKS UNITED STATES

LD201515 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 2330 GMT 19 Mar 80 LD

[Text] The world's progressive public protests against the U.S. aggravation of tension in the area of the Persian Gulf. In an interview with our correspondent, a member of the Iranian Peace Council, E. Zade, said: [Zade speaking in Persian, fading into Russian translation]

The changes which have taken place in Iran as a result of the overthrow of the monarchy and the victory of the Islamic revolution were the main reasons forcing the United States to resort to military blackmail and threats. The Pahlavi regime was sustained in Iran only because of the U.S. aid and the delivery of U.S. weapons. As a result of the victory, the privileges of America and its numerous companies were eliminated.

The lost privileges consisted not only in the financial operations beneficial to America. What is important is that Iran was the outpost of the United States in the Middle East. Washington transformed our country into a giant arms depot, into a police state. The United States was proposing to use Iran as the supplier of cannon-fodder and to force Iran's soldiers to shed blood for the American interests, which are hostile to Iran. It is quite natural that these plans cannot be realized now. I should like to note that there are still forces in Iran who would like to restore economic, political and military ties with the United States sometime in the future. However, I am convinced that the people of Iran will not allow a return to the past. Washington is relying on the supporters of the former regime who are now in the underground. It is encouraging them to attempt a mutiny. However, this is only one direction along which the United States is trying to interfere in Iran's internal affairs.

After the capture of hostages in the U.S. Embassy, the entire arsenal of means of pressure from outside and of intimidation was used against our country, from military threats to economic blockade.

The concentration of an enormous amount of warships in the area of the Persian Gulf constitutes a threat not only to Iran but to all countries of that region. However, Washington should not forget that this threat could bring about a reaction on the part of all the countries of the Persian Gulf. Both economic and trade measures could be used against the United States. In the final analysis, a united anti-American front could be created which would include all the oil producing countries of the region, said E. Zade, member of the Iranian Peace Council, in conclusion.

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IRANIAN REVOLUTION COUNCIL MEMBER DISCUSSES AGRARIAN REFORM

LD201427 Moscow TASS in English 1302 GMT 20 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Tehran, March 20, TASS--Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi Rafsanjani, member of the Islamic Revolutionary Council, has announced that the council has approved a bill on a land reform. The Iranian Government, he said, is now considering the question of buying out surpluses of fertile irrigated lands from big landowners.

Cooperatives and associations for joint land cultivation, which will be given the necessary assistance by the state at the initial stage after they are set up, have an important part to play in raising agricultural production.

INTRODUCTION OF IRANIAN TRADE REGULATIONS REPORTED

LD201534 Moscow TASS in English 1423 GMT 20 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Tehran, March 20, TASS--Iranian Minister of Trade Reza Sadr has announced the introduction of state monopoly of foreign trade.

He said that all import deliveries will be made through 130 state-controlled "trading centers," private merchants may act on their own in buying goods abroad but these goods will have to go to the centres which will fix and control prices. In foreign trade, the minister went on, we shall be guided by the principle of granting the most favoured nation status to Moslem and developing countries on the condition that the commodities brought by Iran are produced and sold by these countries. Duties on imported means of production and raw materials will be lifted in Iran in the coming fiscal year.

VARIATIONS TO SYRIAN COMMUNIST PARTY STATEMENT

Comparison of the item entitled "Intrigues" by CIA-Backed 'Reaction' in Syria Noted" and subtitled "Communist Party Statement" published in the 19 March Soviet Union DAILY REPORT, page H 3 with the TASS report published on page 4 of Moscow PRAVDA in Russian on 19 March 1980 under the headline "The Communists' Stance" reveals the following variations:

Page H 4, PRAVDA omits the last sentence of the last paragraph;

Page H 5, Paragraph two, last two lines PRAVDA reads ... the working people. The forces of reaction are trying to torpedo this positive process. They meet with active support from the Western information media, which have launched a real psychological war against Syria. But the Syrian masses are not yielding to propaganda provocations. They know that American imperialism is their main enemy.

Paragraph three, last line PRAVDA reads ... freedom and socialism. Relations with the Arabs' true friend--the Soviet Union--are the cornerstone of success in the struggle the Syrian people are waging against imperialism, Zionism and hostile agents.

PLANNED 'PROVOCATION' AGAINST S. YEMEN NOTED

LD181529 Moscow SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA in Russian 14 Mar 80 p 5 LD

[TASS report: "Preparing a Provocation"]

[Text] Kuwait, 13 March--With the complicity of the As-Sadat regime the United States is preparing a provocation against the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen [PDY] with a view to undermining its international authority, the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-HADAF writes. It reports that a group of people of South Yemeni extraction are currently being trained on Egyptian territory under the leadership of specialists from the CIA and the Egyptian special services to carry out acts of sabotage and are being instructed in how to handle American weapons.

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It is planned that this group will be sent into the Strait of Hormuz on launches bearing PDRY identification marks. In the guise of South Yemeni Armed Forces the saboteurs are to carry out attacks on merchant ships and oil tankers in the strait and the Gulf of Oman.

EGYPT VIEWED AS BECOMING U.S. MILITARY STRONGPOINT

LD201300 Moscow TASS in English 1246 GMT 20 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Cairo, March 20, TASS--Another high-ranking U.S. military delegation, this time the delegation of the U.S. Tactical Air Command led by W. Critch, is staying on a visit in the Egyptian capital. The delegation is holding talks with Egyptian military figures and will visit a number of Egyptian Airforce units.

Observers point out that the airforce today is the most "promising" field of military cooperation between Egypt and the United States. Thus, last year the United States supplied Egypt with a consignment of F-4 Phantom aircraft and recently the United States gave its consent to equip the Egyptian airforce with the newest F-16 planes. Furthermore, Egypt hopes to obtain in the future F-15 "superfighters", to set up plants in Egypt to assemble tactical F-5 aircraft produced by U.S. firms specially for "use outside the U.S.", and the Bell Company combat helicopters. Talks to this effect have been going for several months now.

Early this year the first ever joint exercises of airforce units of the two countries were held in the Red Sea area. The U.S. planes of the early warning system took part among others in the exercises. The U.S. press admitted that those planes had been secretly deployed at air bases in upper Egypt.

It should be noted in this connection that the calls of U.S. naval ships on Alexandria sea port has become usual of late. For example, a mere two days ago the missile cruiser Albany carrying the command of the 6th U.S. Fleet left Alexandria after a four-day "friendly visit." The attack aircraft carrier Forrestal visited Alexandria in January this year on a similar mission. Late last year the aircraft carrier Nimitz called on Alexandria.

All this irrefutably proves that under cover of the "peace" treaty with Israel Egypt is turning on an increasing scale into a major base for aggressive actions of the United States in the Middle East, Mediterranean and Africa. The Pentagon strategists assign an important role to this new U.S. "strongpoint" in consolidating U.S. military presence in the region and ensuring a steady flow of Arab oil to the West.

FURTHER COMMENT ON POST ELECTION DEVELOPMENTS IN RHODESIA

Steps Toward 'New Life'

LD201249 Moscow SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA in Russian 16 Mar 80 p 3 LD

[M. Bogdanov article under the rubric "Our Commentary": "On the Threshold of a New Life"]

[Text] A day of solidarity with Zimbabwe's people is being celebrated 17 March on AAPSO's initiative, and the United Nations has declared 21 March an international day of struggle for the elimination of racial discrimination. This year these dates assume special significance--as a result of heroic struggle, Zimbabwe's people have thrown off the colonial yoke. In a few days the flag of the new republic, which will be Africa's 50th independent state, will be raised over Salisbury.

The 7-year war, which brought incalculable suffering for millions of black Rhodesians, is over. The colonialists are leaving behind them devastation, hunger, unemployment and the problem of refugees and tribal strife. The situation is aggravated by the fact that the young republic is taking its first independent steps under conditions of ceaseless saber rattling by South Africa and open hostility from the elite of the white population inside the country, which concentrated in its hands the leadership of the state apparatus, the economy and the army. There is also a real danger that British and American imperialism, having failed to subjugate Zimbabwe's people by armed means, will try to ensnare it on the web of neocolonialism and make it economically dependent on the West.

After the patriots' victory in the election the government formed by R. Mugabe on a broad national basis immediately began stabilizing the situation in the country and improving the position of all the population, including guaranteeing the white settlers' interests. Even free Zimbabwe's sworn enemies have been forced to note that tension in the country is decreasing with every passing day. The state of emergency and the curfew have been lifted and the border with neighboring Botswana has been opened. The government has published a plan for gradually solving one of the key issues for the indigenous population--the redistribution of land, of which the lion's share has until now belonged to the white farmers who make up less than 3 percent of the population. Great attention is being paid to introducing free elementary education, resettling the refugees arriving from abroad and training national cadres for the civil service.

As Prime Minister R. Mugabe stressed at a press conference, at all international forums Zimbabwe will oppose the policy of apartheid and racial discrimination and give moral and diplomatic support to organizations struggling against apartheid inside South Africa.

The young republic, which was born in a fierce fight against colonialism, is beginning to blaze the trail to a new life under conditions that are not easy. Today more than ever Zimbabwe's people need the solidarity and support of anti-imperialist forces and all the world's progressive public.

Problems in Transition

LD201308 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1030 GMT 20 Mar 80 LD

[Georgiy Voytsekhovskiy commentary]

[Text] Less than 1 month remains to the official declaration of independence in Zimbabwe. At midnight on 17 April in Salisbury the flag of the British Crown will be lowered and its place will be taken by the flag of the Republic of Zimbabwe, a new independent state on the African Continent. April 18 has been declared Independence Day. On that day official ceremonies and celebrations will be held.

Robert Mugabe, the prime minister, will be sworn in with the 24 ministers forming the cabinet of the new government. In the words of Robert Mugabe, the head of government, Zimbabweans are embarking upon the creation of a new, nonracialist society. The main principles of the Zimbabwe government's socioeconomic and political program have already been formulated and made public. They envisage a substantial break with the infrastructure of the previous regime and important transformations in all fields of life.

Quite understandably, the successful implementation of the tasks facing the people of Zimbabwe depends much on whether peace will be preserved in that country. There are no few grounds for concern here. Armed personnel of the racist Republic of South Africa are located on the territory of Zimbabwe. In various parts of the country there still remain up to 7,000 South African officers and men which the racist authorities used in the war against the patriots and in punitive operations against the population. Nor are the foreign mercenaries from the NATO countries leaving Zimbabwe. A tense situation remains on Zimbabwe's border with the Republic of South Africa. In the last few months the Pretoria regime has set up a network of military strongpoints and base camps on the border strip. These are backed up by shock groups of the regular army and a large quantity of military equipment. It has been noted that mechanized motor columns are continuing to move along the main highway across the border at Beitbridge. Prime Minister Mugabe, in one of his first program statements, cautioned South Africa against interference in Zimbabwe's internal affairs. The timeliness of that warning is obvious.

BAYBAKOV HOLDS TALKS WITH VISITING ETHIOPIAN OFFICIAL

LD201222 Moscow in Amharic to Ethiopia 1530 GMT 19 Mar 80 LD/EA

[Text] Comrade Nikolay Baybakov, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and chairman of the State Planning Committee, on 18 March held talks with the leader of the Ethiopian delegation visiting the USSR, Comrade Lt Col Addis Tedla, member of the Provisional Military Administrative Council Standing Committee. The talks were held in an atmosphere of heartfelt friendship and centered on the strengthening of economic cooperation between the two countries and the further strengthening of cooperation between the planning organizations of the two sides.

ETHIOPIAN LEADER CALLS FOR INCREASED DEFENSE CAPABILITY

LD201353 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 17 Mar 80 p 5 LD

[TASS report: "Aims of Ethiopian Revolution"]

[Text] Addis Ababa, 16 March--Justice, equality, peace and social progress are the aims of the Ethiopian revolution, which firmly believes that general progress can be achieved only on the basis of peace, Mengistu Haile Mariam, chairman of Ethiopia's Provisional Military Administrative Council, has declared.

Speaking at a diploma presentation ceremony for graduates of the military school in (Ginnet), he emphasized that Ethiopia has never considered and does not now consider the military path the only way to resolve disputes.

Ethiopia does not seek military confrontations, the chairman of the Provisional Military Administrative Council declared. While it sincerely strives for peace, however, imperialism is not abandoning its desperate attempts to undermine the Ethiopian revolution and is seeking to create military bases in the Horn of Africa region. The imperialist powers' expansionist designs pose a real threat to peace not only in Africa but also in the Near East, Southeast Asia and Latin America.

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Faced with these intrigues, Ethiopia must strengthen its defense capability in every possible way to protect its revolution. At the same time it will continue to come out persistently for peace and for anti-imperialist solidarity with peace-loving, progressive countries.

PETROV COMMENTS ON ISRAELI-SOUTH AFRICA NUCLEAR COOPERATION

LD202006 Moscow in English to Africa 1700 GMT 20 Mar 80 LD

[Vladimir Petrov commentary from the "Africa as We See It" program]

[Text] According to Western news agencies the Israeli Defense Minister General Weizman last week visited Pretoria with a secret mission.

Despite the secrecy lid the ubiquitous newsmen have learned the aim of the secret mission. They link it up with reports of a month ago about cooperation between South Africa and Israel in the production of nuclear weapons. The American TV company CBS believes that the nuclear explosion registered in the southern Atlantic last September was a result of this cooperation. The West German magazine DER STERN said that last week that, although South Africa and Israel deny it, last September Israel exploded a neutron bomb. [as heard] Evidently the Israeli minister's mission was shrouded in secrecy to conceal the aims of cooperation between the two countries. They are suppression of the national liberation movement in Southern Africa and in the Middle East.

It is not accidental that the Israeli emissary visited Pretoria soon after the victory of the Zimbabwe patriotic forces at the Rhodesian general election. Their victory has given rise to anxiety in South Africa. The racists regard it as a threat to their regime. To preserve the racist system they are prepared to commit any crime up to using weapons of mass destruction.

It would not be absurd to suppose that the Israeli minister's mission also pursued the aim of conveying to Pretoria assurances of American support for the racist plans. Direct contacts between Washington and Tel Aviv appear to be working without a hitch. (?But) for the time being the American administration does not risk establishing similar contacts with Pretoria. In any case it does not risk doing so as long as it continues to pose as the human rights champion.

SOVIET DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER TO VISIT AFRICA

LD202048 Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in English to Africa 1630 GMT 20 Mar 80 LD

[Text] The deputy Soviet foreign minister, Leonid Ilichev, is taking a trip to a number of African countries. He is scheduled to visit Angola, Mozambique, Zambia and Tanzania. He will discuss with the leaders of these countries the present situation in the continent after the victory of the Zimbabwe patriotic forces and the development of relations between the Soviet Union and these countries.

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON NICARAGUAN DELEGATION'S VISIT

Arrival in Leningrad

LD201424 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1200 GMT 20 Mar 80 LD

[Text] The government and party delegation of the Republic of Nicaragua arrived in Leningrad from Moscow today. The delegation is headed by Moises Hassan, member of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction of Nicaragua. The guests were met at the airport in Leningrad by Romanov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Leningradskiy Obkom, and other officials. On Victory Square the delegation inspected the monument to the heroic defenders of Leningrad and laid flowers by the central sculpture group.

Television Interview

LD202010 Moscow TASS in English 1832 GMT 20 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 20, TASS--Henry Ruiz and Humberto Ortega, members of the national leadership of the Sandinista Front of National Liberation, described as "highly positive" the results of the visit of the Nicaraguan delegation to the USSR.

Speaking in an interview with Soviet television, Henry Ruiz said that during the visit the delegation could discuss and outline trends for cooperation between the Republic of Nicaragua and the Soviet Union.

The documents signed, Henry Ruiz pointed out, concern the two basic problems facing the Nicaraguan revolution today. "One of them is assistance in the implementation of the programme for national reconstruction. We have achieved good results at the talks on this issue."

"We are glad that basic forms have been outlined for technical assistance by the Soviet Union in some branches of national economy, which are of great significance for us. In particular, on the question of hydroelectrification and geological prospecting."

Humberto Ortega told the television viewers that at present a foundation is being laid in Nicaragua for a bright future. The people of Nicaragua, he pointed out, is building its bright future "with the same enthusiasm, which is characteristic of Lenin's heirs."

"In our advancement, Humberto Ortega stressed, the people of Nicaragua is relying on the moral support, political strength and fraternal assistance of all progressive and revolutionary peoples of the world and in the first place, naturally, on the support and fraternal proletarian solidarity of the Soviet Union and its people."

SALVADORAN COMMUNISTS PROTEST FASCIST REPRESSION

LD202220 Moscow TASS in English 2201 GMT 20 Mar 80 LD

[Text] San Jose, March 20, TASS--The Central Committee of the Communist Party of El Salvador issued a statement exposing the campaign of brutal repressions unleashed in that country.

Our party, says the document, is declaring in face of international public about the recent murder by El Salvador's repressive organs of young university lecturer Roberto Castellanos Brana and his wife Annette Mattissen. These comrades were abducted in the capital and then thrown into a barrack of the armed forces. The crime shook the Costa Rican and El Salvador public.

According to the testimony of forensic experts and other persons, who inspected the bodies, the lecturer and his wife had been subjected to inhuman tortures before they were murdered.

On the same day, numerous corpses of peasants and workers also killed by secret police agents and militarised gangs were found on a motor road in the towns of Chalatenango, Cuscatlan, and on the outskirts of the capital. All of these people had been subjected to brutal tortures before the murder.

According to a statement by Archbishop of San Salvador Oscar Arnulfo Romero, 45 persons were found dead in the last week of February. Another 60 persons died at the hands of ultrarightists in the first week of March. All this is evidence of the fact, the statement points out, that the government headed by the junta of Christian Democrats and military is stepping up its campaign of terror against the people's organisations and their leaders, all citizens, who in the opinion of the authorities constitute a "threat" to the system of oppression. More than 1,000 patriots have died as a result of repressions since the beginning of this year alone.

We must stress, the document points out, that fascism in El Salvador has strengthened its positions and become even more aggressive.

The U.S. administration is giving the ruling junta economic and diplomatic support for the sake of the country's "pacification."

The Communist Party of El Salvador urges all democratic governments and peoples of the world to give effective material, political and moral support to the heroic struggle of the El Salvador people against its exploiters and butchers, for freedom and democracy.

JAMAICA DEMANDS END TO U.S. EMBASSY 'ESPIONAGE ACTIVITY'

LD201543 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 19 Mar 80 Morning Edition p 4 LD

[Unattributed report from "The World Today" feature compiled by M. Ilinskiy under the rubric "Secrets of the Secret Services": "Espionage in Jamaica"]

[Text] New instances of CIA espionage activity in the country, which have been made public, have aroused profound indignation among the Jamaican public.

Jamaican state security organs have discovered that the U.S. Embassy building contained special apparatus and ultrasensitive optical instruments with whose aid Washington's espionage department attentively observed all regions of Kingston.

The Jamaican authorities have demanded that the U.S. Embassy put an end to the espionage activity which is incompatible with universally accepted diplomatic norms.

PARTY, SOVIET CADRE TRAINING COURSE ENDS IN MOSCOW

LD201739 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 15 Mar 80 p 2 LD

[Unattributed report: "Cadre Training"]

[Text] On 14 March classes ended at the latest course of the CPSU Central Committee Academy of Social Sciences Institute for Improving the Qualifications of Leading Party and Soviet Cadres. For a month the chiefs of houses of political enlightenment of republic party committees, kraykoms, obkoms, okruzhkoms and gorkoms studied topical problems of Marxist-Leninist theory and the practice of communist building, the works of Comrade L.I. Brezhnev and CPSU Central Committee documents on ideological questions.

The students took part in the meeting between the voters of Moscow's Baumanskiy Okrug and Comrade L.I. Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

The students were addressed by M.V. Zimyanin, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee; CPSU Central Committee department chiefs Ye. M. Tyazhelnikov and V.F. Shauro; CPSU Central Committee department deputy chiefs O.B. Rakhmanin, G.L. Smirnov, V.M. Falin, N.S. Perun, N.P. Rudenko and G.Kh. Shakhnazarov; B.M. Pastukhov, first secretary of the Komsomol Central Committee; V.A. Medvedev, rector of the CPSU Central Committee Academy of Social Sciences; journal chief editors R.I. Kosolapov, V.S. Semenov and A.S. Vishnyakov; S.P. Pavlov, chairman of the USSR Sports Committee; A.Ya. Sukharev, USSR first deputy minister of justice; Academician D.M. Gvishiani; O.T. Bogomolov, corresponding member of the USSR Academy of Sciences; A.D. Pedosov, deputy director of the CPSU Central Committee Institute of Marxism-Leninism, and other scholars.

In the study process special attention was paid to party organizations' experience in fulfilling the resolutions of the 25th CPSU Congress and Central Committee November (1979) Plenum and the CPSU Central Committee resolutions "On Further Improving Ideological and Political Education Work" and "On the 110th Anniversary of the Birth of Vladimir Ilich Lenin." There was a broad exchange of opinions on ways of improving the system of Marxist-Leninist education. The students were addressed by I.A. Anderson, secretary of the Latvian CP Central Committee; T.I. Zhadanova, secretary of the Leningrad CPSU Gorkom, and A.M. Roganov, chief of the Moscow CPSU Gorkom Propaganda and Agitation Department.

The students visited party organizations in Moscow and the Moscow area and the Political Enlightenment House of the Moscow Obkom and Moscow Gorkom and familiarized themselves with experience of organizing political and economic education.

REGISTRATION OF RSFSR SUPREME SOVIET DEPUTIES NOTED

LD211048 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1000 GMT 21 Mar 80 LD

[Text] It was announced today that registration of deputies arriving in Moscow for the First Session of the Supreme Soviet of the RSFSR of the 10th Convocation will take place in the Kremlin on 22 and 23 March.

The first sessions of the supreme organs of state power in the union republics, elected February 24, have already taken place in a number of republics. Such a session opened in Turkmenia.

AGRONOMIST COMMENTS ON MECHANIZATION OF SOWING

LD201932 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1600 GMT 20 Mar 80 LD

[Commentary by Yuriy Antonovich (Kovoryalov), merited agronomist of the RSFSR]

[Summary] As spring gets underway, the attention of farmers is on the grain fields. Many have not only to fulfill this year's plan but also have to make up for underproduction in recent summers. The important thing is precise organization of all aspects of the work. Everyone knows this. Nevertheless, how often do we meet with cases where fields are not ready for sowing? Of great importance for increasing the efficiency of sowing drills is the mechanization of the work of filling them.

As yet there are not enough special filling machines, but with a little thought one can always discover reserves: For instance, on the Petrovskiy Kolkhoz in Zhitomirskaya Oblast the use of modified (?FK)-4 combines and the organization of sowing work on a group basis made it possible to release 34 workers, thus leading to a productivity increase averaging 20 percent. Or again, at most farms an operation like placing and removing markers is done by hand, but this takes up 30 or 40 minutes of working time. So, many farms have mechanized this work. Again, there is an increase in productivity.

In general, every minute must be made full use of. So when sowing equipment is in use the principle of flowline and group use of machines must be observed. Experience on farms in steppe areas of Ukraine, the Volga Region and along the Don has shown that such a method of using machinery raises the productivity of each shift by 15 percent, and that over a 5-day period 3 sowing drills will sow 58 or 60 hectares more than by single use.

BRIEFS

UKRAINIAN SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE--A general meeting of the southern branch of the All-Union Lenin Academy of Agricultural Sciences opened in Kiev on 4 February. Special attention was paid to further raising the effectiveness of scientific papers in agriculture and to strengthening links between scientists and production. A report was delivered by academician (Bogdanov), presidium chairman of the southern branch. Participating in the meeting were Borisenko, Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee Politburo member and secretary; Stepanenko, Ukrainian Council of Ministers deputy chairman; and Kovalenko, Agricultural Department chief in the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee. [Kiev Domestic Service in Russian 0900 GMT 4 Mar 80 AU]

WINTER LAMBING IN KAZAKHSTAN--Kazakh sheepbreeding farms are summing up the preliminary results of winter lambing. Since the beginning of the year, 2.5 million lambs and kids have been born, or 107 per 100 ewes. In many oblasts the average reproduction rates this year have increased. That particularly applies to Vostochno-Kazakhstanskaya Oblast where the number of lambs obtained per 100 ewes increased by 8 compared with the corresponding period of 1979. [Alma-Ata Domestic Service in Russian 1511 GMT 15 Mar 80 AU]

SEVERO-KAZAKHSTANSKIY OBKOM PLENUM--On 28 February a Severo-Kazakhstanskiy Obkom plenum discussed the tasks to intensify organizational and political work and to raise the level of stockbreeding production. A report was delivered by obkom First Secretary Demidenko. Measures were outlined to increase the production and procurements of animal produce. The plenum was attended by Kozlov, responsible worker of the CPSU Central Committee. Alma-Ata Domestic Service in Russian 1510 GMT 28 Feb 80 AU]

COSMOS-1168 ARTIFICIAL SATELLITE LAUNCHED 18 MARCH

LD180750 Moscow TASS in English 0739 GMT 18 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 18, TASS--Another artificial earth satellite, Cosmos-1168, was launched in the Soviet Union today. The sputnik carries scientific apparatuses for continuation of the exploration of outer space.

The sputnik was placed on orbit with the following parameters: initial revolution period--104.9 minutes, maximum distance from the earth's surface (apogee)--1,026 kilometers, minimum distance from the earth's surface (perigee)--981 kilometers, orbit angle--82.9 degrees.

Besides scientific apparatuses, the sputnik carries a radio system for precise measurement of orbit elements, a radiotelemetric system for transmission to the surface of data on the functioning of the instruments and scientific apparatuses. The apparatuses installed in the sputnik function smoothly. The coordinating and computing center is processing the incoming information.

BRIEFS

OKHOTSK SEA TIDAL STATION--The possibility of utilizing the enormous reserves of energy in the tides of the Okhotsk Sea has become more feasible with the use of computer studies. Workers of the Pacific Ocean Oceanological Institute of the Far East Scientific Center of the USSR Academy of Sciences have used a computer to compile technical and economic substantiation for the construction of tidal electric power stations and to confirm the efficiency of projects to harness the power of the ocean. The coast of the Okhotsk Sea is considered particularly suitable for tidal power stations insofar as tidal changes in areas such as the Penzhinskaya Gulf reach up to 14 meters. Doctor of Technical Sciences Bernsteyn has proposed a cascade of power stations in this gulf of the Okhotsk Sea with a prospective capacity of 100 million kilowatts. Specialists consider that in 6 to 7 years the tidal power station would pay for itself. [Khabarovsk Domestic Service in Russian 0930 GMT 10 Mar 80 OW]

ANTARCTIC SHIPPING--On 13 March the BMRT Ekvator was working on a scientific program in the Antarctic part of the Pacific Ocean. The scientific exploration vessels (Yelogradovo), and Professor Deryugin and the production training vessel Professor Kozhin were in the Antarctic part of the Indian Ocean. [Vladivostok Maritime Service in Russian to the Pacific Far East 0710 GMT 13 Mar 80 OW]

ATOMIC POWER STATION--Moscow, March 14, TASS--The third unit of one million kilowatt has been put in operation at the Leningrad Atomic Power Station. The biggest in Europe, writes Moscow NEWS INFORMATION. No other station has such powerful reactors. The USSR is now leading in such power units. All operations are controlled from the main console and comprehensively automated. Radiation safety is kept under special control. Everything is provided for human safety and environmental protection. The fourth power unit is being built and when it is launched the station will reach a 4 million kw capacity. The second power unit of 410,000 kw has been put in operation at the Armenian Atomic Power Station. The world's first atomic power station which ushered the era of peaceful atomic energy was built in 1954 in Obninsk, some hundred kilometers from Moscow. Another milestone in atomic power engineering was the construction of the Beloyarskaya Atomic Power Station with fast neutron reactors which increase the efficiency of nuclear fuel. [Text] [Moscow TASS in English 0923 GMT 14 Mar 80 LD]

EDITORIAL: SERVICEMEN'S LOYALTY TO INTERNATIONAL DUTY

LD201715 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 15 Mar 80 p 1 LD

[Editorial: "Loyalty to the Idea of Internationalism"]

[Excerpts] From the very first days of its existence the land of the soviets' army was an army of friendship and fraternity among peoples, an army of internationalists. The entire 60-year-plus history of the Soviet state and its armed forces are evidence of this. Soviet people did all they could to support the revolutionary struggle of the working class of Germany, Austria and Hungary in 1918-1919 and to help Mongolia and China in their struggle against the Japanese militarists. Many Soviet volunteers fought in the international brigades in Spain. Loyal to their international duty, Soviet servicemen, together with the servicemen of other socialist countries, went to the assistance of fraternal Czechoslovakia in 1968. At the request of Afghanistan's revolutionary government a limited contingent of Soviet troops is now fulfilling its international duty on the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan's [DRA] territory in accordance with the 1978 treaty of friendship, good neighborliness and cooperation between the USSR and the DRA.

The formation of the world socialist system gave new meaning to the concepts of patriotism and socialist internationalism. "In developing the Soviet people's love of their fatherland," the CPSU program states, "the party proceeds from the premise that with the formation of the world socialist system the patriotism of the citizens of a socialist society takes the form of devotion and loyalty to their motherland and to the whole community of socialist countries. Proletarian solidarity with the working class and with working people in all countries as an organic part of socialist patriotism and socialist internationalism."

Under the new historical conditions the Soviet Armed Forces' international mission has broadened. In united combat formation with the fraternal socialist states' armies they are guarding the gains of the entire socialist community. Our countries' common socio-economic and political system and the unity of their Marxist-Leninist ideology, aims, tasks and class interests are the immutable base of the combat cooperation between the fraternal socialist states' armies. Under these conditions the patriotism and internationalism of Soviet servicemen and the servicemen of the other fraternal armies operate in organic unity. Strengthening the armed forces' combat might and increasing their combat readiness means fulfilling your patriotic duty to your people and motherland, serves the cause of defending the peoples of all the socialist community states and means fulfilling an international duty.

In common with all Soviet servicemen, the soldiers, sergeants, ensigns, officers and generals stationed in Hungary, the GDR, Poland and Czechoslovakia are honorably fulfilling their patriotic and international duty. Shoulder to shoulder with the servicemen of the allied armies they are keeping a vigilant combat watch and enjoy the fraternal peoples' respect and affection. By worthily and honorably representing their great country our servicemen are increasing still further the high reputation of the army of liberation, which was won by their fathers and older brothers in the years of the Great Patriotic War. Risking and at times even sacrificing their lives, Soviet servicemen have repeatedly gone to the assistance of the inhabitants of the fraternal countries, saving lives and public property at times of natural disasters and adversity.